

NOT QUITE SO WILDE ABOUT LIAM NEESON Why David Hare got it wrong over Oscar ARTS, PAGE 20

OUR SLEAZY FRIENDS IN THE NORTH Newcastie's soccer bosses face penalty FEATURES, PAGE 18

POET LAUREATE OF DETROIT'S UNDERWORLD John Walsh interview Elmore Leonard THE MAGAZINE

Newspaper of the Year for photographs INDEP

Whatgoes up... must inevitably come down

The tough words our *children must now learn

By Judith Judd Education Editor

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So by fields," he said.

EACHERS were yesterday given hour-by-hour instructions oo how to teach reading - the most detailed intervention in the ment. The document emphaphonics, which involves teaching words according to letter. called to account. sounds. Under the proposals 11year-olds will be expected to know the meanings of such

if the path that has resumeraphene and magnonic.
Too many reachers have sumed that children who are given books will learn to read from the context, it says. It also spells out what teachers should do in the 'literacy hour" on reading, spelling and grammar which primary schools will have to hold each day from September. Ministers intend to issue similar guidelines on maths and to introduce a daily nuheld had paraded before meracy hour. Teachers said the literacy guidelines, which cover the six years of primary school, were so prescriptive that they would stifle children's enjoyment of reading and hold back bright children.

David Blunkett, Secretary of tate for Education, said parwould now have a clear dea what their children should e learning in each term. "This ramework gives clear and deailed guidance oo planning he teaching of literacy in prinary schools using tried and ested methods.

"It is a practical tool for daye-day teaching which will librate teachers to be able to use heir professional skills without hiplicating work plans." Even he term during which children bould learn each sound such as ch" and "bl" is specified. So is he timetable for learning diferent spelling patterns. All mimary teachers will be rerained to ensure that they can use the approved methods.

strategy is not compulsory hut, most teachers are expected to use it. Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, is a strong supporter of the guidelines and inspectors will check on how reading is being taught. Stephen classroom made by a govern- Byers, the school-standards minister, said this year that sises the importance of teachers whose pupils achieved traditional methods, especially poor results and who were not using the methods would be

Anne Barnes, general sec-

retary of the National Association for the Teaching of to teach reading and would be reassured by the help being offered. But she suggested the literacy hour, in which the teacher will teach the whole class totime, might hold back bright children. A lot of children will be very frustrated by the emphasis on phonics. All childreo have to learn phonics but they can become seriously discouraged if teachers persist with them too long. The point of reading is to enjoy a good story. If you are constantly holding children up by asking them to sound out words, you are going to put them off reading." The Department for Education said it had oo statistics to show how many schools were using

on the best practice to be found in schools," a spokesman said. However, research has shown that most teachers use a mixture of methods, including Science Editor phonics. Most experts argue that phonics alone does oot improve reading. The Government is spending £59m this year on literacy training for teachers and more books. Training will begin after Easter and each teacher will eventually receive three days' training.

Mr Blunkett will today anconnice that the Government will fund 562 summer literacy schools this year, an 11-fold increase on last year.



BRITAIN'S efforts to put a man into space in a private rocket yesterday went up, up and ... awry, writes Charles Arthur. At 11am on Dartmoor, Steve Bennett pressed the gether for two-thirds of the | red button to launch Starchaser 3, a 22ft experimental rocket designed to whizz 5,000 metres into the air.

> At 11am and a few seconds, he was gazing at burning scrub where the rocket had crashed, harming nobody but demonstrating that it's one thing to launch a rock-

et hut quite another to get it to fly. He later blamed the failure on the rock-

et motors: "I was trying to light seven motors together, but a couple ignited before the others and it hit the side of the hill. We will put it down to experience."

The rocket took Mr Bennett two years to build virtually singlehanded, and included nine computers and 11 rocket motors - and was 10 times more powerful than Mr Bennett's last rocket, Starchaser 2, which reached a height of 600 metres in 1996.

The launch initially went well - but a couple of hundred feet up the rocket gradually turned tail in the way familiar to witnesses

of the Ariane 5 launch in June 1996 (blown up 30 seconds after takeoff), and early tests of the prototype Trident nuclear missile (took off and then dived into the sea).

The next steps in his plan had been to launch another version of Starchaser 3 in a flight over the sea, and then to launch a satellite into low Earth orbit, and finally to put a person into orbit - an essential step before aiming for a \$10m prize being offered by an American company to anyone rocketing three people 100 kilometres (62 miles) into space and bringing them back safely.

Now Murdoch may grab the Lord's Test for satellite TV

Media Editor

CRICKET lovers may soon have to subscribe to satellite or cable television to watch live coverage of home England Test matches. So will many other armchair sports fans if the Government decides to follow the recommendations of an independeot working party published yesterday.

In what would be a blow for some "free to air" terrestrial broadcasters but a major financial boon for sports, the advisory group is prepared to give slightly disappointed the Gov-BSkyB the chance to seize many of the so-called "crown jewels of sport", including all Wimbledon matches apart from the finals and semi-finals.

It would also lower the protection for the Fifa World Cup finals after the tournament in France this summer, but it would guarantee the terrestrials more access to the European Football championships.

The group - whose members included Jack Charlton, Steve is advocating that the list of protected sports events should be split into two tiers. Terrestrials would be guaranteed live coverage of a shortened A list and would have to make do with highlights or deferred coverage of those in the B list.

The report was welcomed esterday by Claire Ward, Labour MP for Watford and a member of the Commons Culture, Media and Sport select committee. "It recognises ...

that sport has become much more commercial in nature and a great deal of advancement and progress in sport is based oo funding they receive from selling the rights to broadcasting." she said.

"While recognising that some will feel the move on test cricket is a great shame, I'm not sure any of our public service or free to air broadcasters can justify what is effectively 25 days of

ooe sport being broadcast," Simon Johnson, ITV's head of business affairs, took a similarly pragmatic view: "We're ernmeot hasn't left the list as it was, but we've never relied on government legislation to do our negotiation for us," he

Reducing the number of listed events reserved for terrestrial broadcasters seems certain to anger many sports fans, who will resent having to pay for the right to watch events which have traditionally been screened by the BBC and ITV.

But the bodies running ma-JOE SPORTS are keen to be free up to auctioo off viewing rights for hig occasions to satellite broadcasters. They are entire to reap the same kind of commercial dividends as football's Premier league, whose finances were transformed when it struck a £300m deal with Sky for the rights to screen live soccer.

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, is expected to announce his response to the report in a few

Wanted – a committee to deal with the end of the world approved methods. "It is based

By Charles Arthur

THE FATE of the Earth will in future be decided by committee: At least, if somebody thinks that we are about to be wiped out by a wayward asteroid -as seemed to be the case a week ago.

In future a group of 15 astronomers across the United States will check the calculations involved, just to see whether we really are going to be flattened. What's more, they'll try to de-

to avoid catastrophe - and not at a meeting this week in Hous-

vard astronomer who warned nine days ago that asteroid 1997 XF11 could hit the Earth and doom burnankind in 2028. Hours later, the US space agency Nasa issued more detailed calculations showing that it would miss us by 600,000 miles. "The whole

episode has left a nasty taste in my mouth," said the professor. The members for the new

inst the sort that leaves cosmic ton, Texas. They agreed to use egg on otherwise eminent faces. their combined expertise to The committee is likely to include Brian Marsden, the Har- when an asteroid looks like a threat. "If it's a real threat, the announcement will be made and steps will be taken to mitigate the threat," said Donald Yeo-

> mans, a Nasa scientist. Everyone involved agreed that the gaffe over 1997 XF11 could have been avoided had the International Astronomical Union, which issued Professor Marsden's statement, and Nasa

our best interest to try to get harmonious again," he said. When an astronomer dis-

covers that an asteroid could threaten the Earth, the committee will review the data and do its own calculations to deter-

mine how serious the threat is. "Within a matter of a day or two, the situation will become far more clear and it will either become a oon-eveot or some appropriate announcement will be made - but not until this committee's had a chance to chew on it for a bit," Mr Yeo-

Today's news Striking French

THOUSANDS of Britons attempting to cross the Channel were left stranded yesterday as French workers closed the port of Calais and blocked Le Shuttle services in a 24-hour action which meant the cancellation of Dover-Calais ferries.

GLASGOW lost out doubly to Edinburgh - first in the bosting of the Scottish Parliament, and then in its bid for money to establish o National Gallery of Scottish

Literacy tests, page 3 cide what we should do in order communicated earlier. "It's in committee were being chosen The new national literacy Fury as Newcastle chiefs refuse to go close Calais It is understood that Sir Terence News of the World's claims, they

NEWCASTLE United fans reicted furiously yesterday to sews that the club chairman, reddy Shepherd, and vicehairman Douglas Hall would tot be resigning.

Mr Shepherd yesterday ailed in a High Court attempt oget an injunction against the Vews of the World to prevent the



newspaper publishing further details in its next edition of a conversation he had with an undercover reporter. Newcastle supporters have

been calling for the pair to step down since Sunday when the newspaper published remarks they are alleged to have made insulting the club's star players, mocking the supporters and describing North-eastem womeo as "dogs".

Yesterday, Gerrard Tyrrell, Mr Hall's solicitor, said his client had no intention of resigning as they had been "stitched up right royally". Mr Hall owns 57 per cent of the club's shares and Mr Shepherd owns 7 per cent.



Hail: Owns 57 per cent of club

Alarmingly for the club, the three independent non-executive directors of Newcastle Umited ple were said yesterday to be considering their positions. Mr Hall take issue with the

Harrison, Denis Cassidy and John Mayo will resign in protest if Mr Shepherd and Mr Hall are unable to disprove the allegawomies about the consequences for their own reputations.

Newcastle United plc, the quot- per about its reporting methods. ed parent company of the football chub, is also chairman of the building firm Alfred McAlpine. Mr Cassidy is the former head of Liberty, the London department store and Boddington's brewery. Mr Mayo is finance director of electronics group GEC.

Although Mr Shepherd and

have not issued a libel writ. Mr Tyrrell said: "If they did say these things, they totally apologise and it was totally out of tions by legal action because of character ... They don't remember what was said."

He added that a complaint Sir Terence, the chairman of had been made to the newspa-In Newcastle last night, fans were adamant that the two soc-

cer chiefs should go. John Regan, secretary of the Newcastle United Independent Supporters' Association, said: "Their arrogance belies belief - they are refusing to go despite massive public support against them." The Toon saga, page 18

Page 3 Glasgow loses out to Edinburgh Art and Design. Page 5

"Drive it and believe." WHAT CAR QUALITY IS A RIGHT NOT A PRIVILEGE.

THE NEW ASTRA - VAUXHALL

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 . CROSSWORDS, TIME OFF PIZ AND P24 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, THE EYE .

Tube leasing plan hailed as triumph for Prescott By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent a new "third way" to provide LU with a 15-year, ETbu investment provided as triumph for Prescott with a 15-year, ETbu investment provided as triumph for Prescott and signalling, was tree "the thesuring safety". Private for

THE CASH-STARVED Lon-

stations to the private sector. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, stressed his plan was not privatisation, nor eveo "partial" privatisation, but trains, managing the stations,

FEATURES

meot programme. The deal could see Loodon's suhterdon Underground received a ranean rail system broken up £365m boost yesterday as the into three parts. At present, Government annouoced it there are 12 Tube lines - seveo would lease its trains, track and of which are classified as "deep" and the rest as "sub-surface".

London Transport will remain a public-sector company responsible for "running the

will bid for the right to renew the oetwork. The contractors will have to maintain the track, upgrade the rapidly-deteriorating signalling systems and modernise the rolling stack. LT will pay the infrastructure companies "service charges"

to use the trains and tracks. Railtrack, the company which took over British Rail's Fares will, according to minis-

"Two-thirds of the Underground tracks are on the surface, overground, and many of them are adjacent to existing Railtrack assets," explained Brian Mellitt, the company's en-

gineering director. Mr Prescott said that those that offered "the best value for money" would win the work.

by 1 per cent above inflation -

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, said the process of injecting private capital into the network could "start immediately". However, it is unlikely to trickle in until after 2000, when the London

The key to the Government's plan is the Tube's cash flow. It takes £800m every year in ticket sales and makes an "operating profit* of about £275m. But this is after a Treasury hand out of £400m. If the Government waits until 2001, the Tube's "profits" could replace

its government subsidy. Experts say that private con-

es" such as congestion charging or parking levies and increasing fares. Either way, the improvements to the system will be paid

for by its users. Maurice Fitzpatrick, a partner with accountants Chantrey Vellacout, said the extra investment needed £400m more a year. "If that were all to come from ticket sales, fares

- My down es would see private companies paying for work in the first few years and receiving large dollops of cash in the latter half of the cootract as LT becomes in-

creasing profitable. The radical plan is considered a triumph for Mr Prescott. He had battled to save the network from being privatised.

GEC to end role for **Aitken**

By Kathy Marks

GEC-Marconi, the defence company, is about to part company with Jonathan Aitken the disgraced former cabinet minister whom it hired only a few weeks ago as a consultant oo Saudi arms sales.

The company said yesterday that Mr Aitken, who was arrested this week in connection with perjury allegations, had been appointed oo a shortterm contract to handle a specific project which was almost

complete. It declined to comment on whether his prospects had been affected by the week's developments. However, a spokesman said: "GEC's reputation is squeaky clean. As a transnational company, we have to behave as straightforwardly as possible always, because our success depends on our reputation.

Mr Aitken was questioned by police for four hours on Tuesday about allegations arising from the collapse of his libel action last year against The Guardian and Granada Television. His teenage daughter, Victoria, who would have testified on his behalf, was interviewed the previous day.

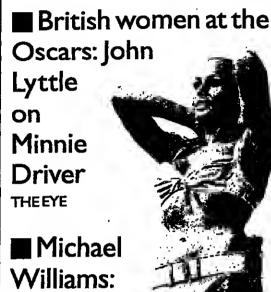
Although his appointment was confirmed by GEC only three weeks ago, it is understood he has been working for it for several months. He is believed to have been advising it oo its. attempts to sell the Marksman

radar-targeted artillery gun. Sources say the project is only weeks from completion, and that there was never an intentioo to retain Mr Aitken for further consultancy work. But they acknowledge that the latest legal developments have made him a source of poteotial embarrassment to the

company. Ooe source said: "Clearly it was believed that this was a man who would bring something to the picnic as far as Saudi Arabia was concerned, and if you are trying to get business, you

explore every avenue." Mr Aitken, 55, a former defence procurement minister, has been credited with securing a £5bo order for British Aerospace for 48 Tornado fighterbombers from Saudi Arabia.

IN MONDAY'S INDEPENDENT **■** Eastern promise: The business women who are the brains behind Britain's top Asian business



Mr Judy Dench **THE EYE**

Still a ... godess at 52: Ursula **Andress** THEEYE

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Sporting chance: who screens what

Recommendations of the independent working party on which sports should be screened free by terrestrial channels (Group A) and those which are open to bids from satellite and cable companies (Group B):

Group A (Full Live Coverage Protected)

Olympic Games Fifa World Cup Finals (final, semi-finals and matches involving Home Nations); European Football Championships (final, semi-finals and matches involving home nations); FA Cup Fiual, Scottish FA Cup Final (in Scotland); Wimbledon (finals weekend); the Grand National; the Derby.

Group B (Secondary Coverage Protected)

Fifa World Cup Finals (all matches oot included above); European Football Champiouships (all matches oot included above); Fifa World Cup qualifying matches involving home natious; European Football Championships qualifying matches involving home nations; Five Nations Rugby Tournameot; Rugby World Cup (final, semi-finals and matches involving home oations); Test Matches involving England; Cricket World Cup (final, semifinals and matches involving home nations); Wimbledon (all play other than finals weekend); Commonwealth Games; world athletics championship; and for golf - the Opeo and the Ryder Cup.

Doctor suspended in parental consent case

A CONSULTANT who carried out go ahead. a heart procedure on a six-year-old girl without the consent of her pareots was last night suspended for six mooths.

Christie's staff hanging the only known life-size portrait in oil of John Brown, Queen Victoria's faithful Highland servant, which she commissioned. The painting by Carl Rudolph Sohn is to be sold on behalf of the Scottish Tartans Society at Christie's in Edinburgh in May

Photograph: Nicola Kurta

James Taylor, a consultant paediatric cardiologist at London's Great Ormood Street Hospital. was found guilty of serious professional misconduct at the end of a four-day hearing at the General Medical Council (GMC).

A six-month suspension is a lenient senteoce after a finding of serious professional misconduct. It reflects the GMC's view that Dr Taylor acted in what he felt were the best interests of the child, but that he ignored his overriding duty to ohtain parental consent.

Debbie Jenkins, from Sprowston, Norwich, died after suffering irreversible brain damage following Dr Taylor's procedure. Her parents, Ross and Carolyn, said they

lor, 61, had not been aware of Debbe did not have "sufficient medical grounds to proceed in the absence of parental consent".

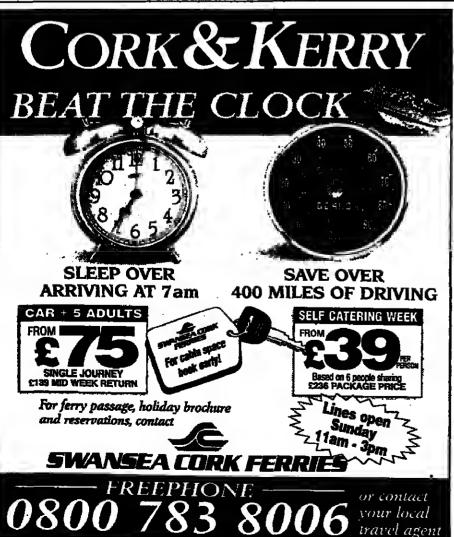
Debbie was born with a congenital heart condition and was supposed to be undergoing a routine diagnostic procedure to establish if her health problems were cardiac-related.

Dr Taylor told the hearing that he decided to go ahead with a procedure to dilate a balloon in an effort to enlarge a narrowed artery in July 1995. After the balloon burst Dr Taylor attempted to remove the remnants of the device for three hours but he failed and it cut off the blood supply to Debbie's brain.

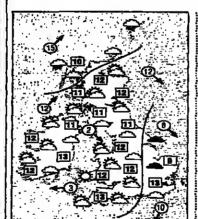
Dr Herbert Duthie, chairman of the Professional Conduct Committee of the GMC, said there had

had not wanted the procedure—the been no exceptional circuminsertion of a balloon catheter-to stances in the case. He said that parents had a right to be involved The GMC found that Dr Tay- in the care of their children, "so bie's parents' wishes and found that. plain what is involved and gain their consent". He added: "The decision to use the balloon catheter was taken without the pareot's consect." Dr Taylor's suspension will apply after a 28day appeal procedure. Both parents were devastated by the death of their only daughter and Mr Jenkins said that he still cries himself to sleep. They were too distressed to speak about yesterday's

decision. Dr Taylor's lawyer, Nicola Davies, told the hearing that he had believed he was acting in the best interests of his patient when he carried out the procedure. "He is a man of total dedication and a wise physician," she said. "He was devastated by the death of Debbie wheme from



WEATHER



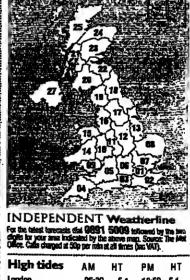
local drizzle, but the rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry and mild with some sunshine. West Wales and the extreme west of England will have a fine day with plenty of sunshine. However, east Wales and most of England will start cloudy and grey with some drizzle near North Sea coasts, it should slowly brighten up with a few sunny spells developing, but eastern counties may well stay grey.

Outlook for the next few days Tomorrow will be mostly dry and settled. The best of the sunstaine is again likely to be in the west with cloud across eastern England and also the far north of Scotland. On Monday, the dry, mild weather will continue, but north-west Scotland will see wind and rain towards evening. Tuesday will be cooler with rain followed by sunshine and showers. Drier and brighter weather is expected to return on Wednesday.

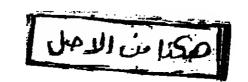


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By Karhy Marks

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References to

°French protestors shut down Chunnel

By Randeep Ramesh and Katherine Butler

THOUSANDS of Britons attempting to cross the Channel were left stranded yesterday as French workers closed the port of Calais and blocked Le Shut-

The 24-hour action meant the cancellation of Dover-Calais ferry services and severe disruption in the car-carrying Channel tunnel trains.

French ferry staff and dockers used about 20 cars to block the motorway entrance to the Tunnel for four hours, barring all freight and tourist passengers. They were protesting against the EU's proposed abolition of duty-free sales from the summer of 1999.

Those companies with cross-Channel operations managed to divert some services to different destinations. P&O Stena Line, the newly combined ferry company, cancelled its Dnver-Calais services and sailed to Zeebrugge, while Hoverspeed operated to Ostend rather than Calais.

Eurostar escaped the chaos providing the only cross-Channel services unaffected from London to Paris and Brus-

Duty-free shopping remains a contentious point of the "single market". Campaigners say it will cost up to 23,000 jobs in the UK alone and most will go within a year of the change.

Yesterday's action coincided with a meeting of European finance ministers in York. Although duty-free is not officially on the agenda, the Calais protests have turned up the

'Ireland's finance minister, Charlie McCreevy, whose gov-rough at a right story orang

ernment has been leading calls for a further reprieve for the trade beyond June 1999, will be looking to his German colleague, Theo Waigel, for signs of support for a study on the impact on employment.

Mr Waigel is already under essure from campaigners in Germany who fear massive losses in the North Sea ferry ports and who now have the support of the Opposition's Gerhard Schröder, tipped to be-

come Germany's chancellor. The French strike, which began early yesterday morning. led to huge traffic jams around Calais, affecting British travellers including many lorry drivers. Tempers flared as truckers and holidaymakers accused the French police of standing by while the blockade continued.

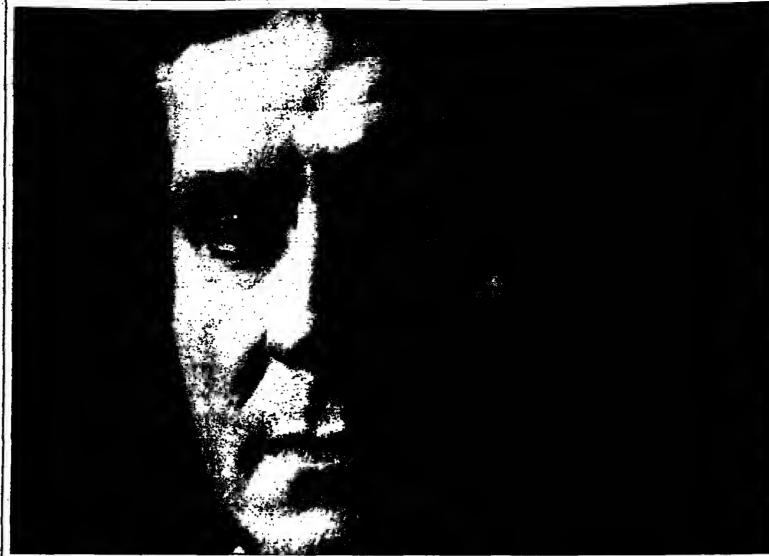
Services on Le Shuttle did nnt resume until mid-afternoon. Eurotunnel released a statement saying "the company will not tolerate any disruptions and we have been in touch with the French authorities reiterating this."

The Freight Transport Association, which represents hanlage firms, estimated the cost of the 24-hour strike to British industry as more than £500,000.

Experts have also pointed out that duty-free encourages travel. A recent study by the Centre of Economics and Business Research predicted that 115,000 fewer visits will be made to the UK by the year 2005 if duty-free sales were

Barry Goddard, secretary

general of the Duty-Free Confederation, said: "Duty and tax-free shopping is good for Britain and treates jobs."



Passionate about passion: David Hare, the darling of the chattering classes

Passion is all for ideologue of the theatre

DAVID HARE

Paolozzi, the novelist Ian McEwan,

The argument in Hare's work is nor-

left-wing journals.

IT IS difficult for this newspaper to give David Hare the praise he deserves as we would according to Hare himself, be praising from the perspective of ignorance. "The Independent," Hare once wrote, "is staffed by fools who know nothing about art."

The crime that provoked that denunciation was that we ran an obituary of a film director which said the dead man had had "an imeven career". But that is Hare - passionate in his defence of high art, passionate in his contempt for those who question it. He is also passionate in defence of

passion. His latest play, The Judas Kiss, which opened in London this week, is ostensibly about Oscar Wilde but deals with recurrent Hare themes. love and betraval.

Hare is rightly contemptuous of those who say it must be harder for a notably his National Theatre trilogy on very wealthy man than it is for others the church, the legal system and the

Labour Party - not only mine our IN THE NEWS doubts about established institutions, they explore the nature of Englishness and they examine the depths of love and loss in relationships. But in cultural marters, the winner is usually well signposted. The conflict between theatre and to retain idealism. His plays show he television in Amy's View is no contest, has. Though he would also be rightly with Judi Dench's passionate defence contemptuous of such a lazy phrase, 50of theatre all too easily exposing the shal-

vear-old Hare, with 30 years in the lowness of a pretentious film director. theatre, remains the darling of the chat-But then there is no contest for tering classes. The first night of The Ju-Hare. The post-modernist edeticism das Riss at the Playhouse Theatre was which sees all art as equally worthy of attention leaves him cold. He once gave attended by the artist Eduardo an agenda-setting denunciation of this, theatre directors, actors and editors of fittingly enough on the studiedly eclectic BBC Late Show, arguing that Keats is better than Bob Dylan, and it's time

mally guaranteed to send his audience we started prioritising again. home with a warm glow. His plays -In 1994 he gave a lecture to the Fabian Society, a lecture he did not intend to be made public. Referring to the play Absence Of War, researched during Labour's 1992 election campaign, he said that Labour's decision to remodel itself in the Eighties "has left a Labour Party terrified of controversy, terrified of internal argument, and in my own tiny corner of interest, terrified of a play that asks what has happened to its own ability to give voice tn its great passion for social justice".

Hare's plays have been criticised for debate not always matched by theatricality, and for too few shades of grey in that debate, with women often cast as the liberal voice of reason. But they contain a beauty, not just of language, but of integrity - a challenge to society to rethink its position on love, on faith, on politics. Even fools who know nothing about art can recognise in that a great contribution to cultural life.

Not so Wilde about the boys, page 20

SIR PETER HALL IN HIS SEVENTIES DIARIES

"David appeared in my office sporting what I'm sure was a deliberately torn sweater. He is one of the warmest and most generous men I know, but he hides it under an icy and pricely manner that is sections, and flip by turns the is naturally parapold, nervous and edgy."

NEIL KINNOCK ON HARE'S PLAY ABSENCE OF WAR

"It shows me as an arsehole."

HARE ON HIS MARRIAGE

Within & got married again I said, Oh my God, this is going to be the end of the going to be the end of the world, but actually it has ted the opposite effect... for gligd to say that being mappy limit proved fatal to gay camen."

HARE ON HIS FATHER

Toy finder was a sallor and was away for il months of the year He was a complete enigma _ But he came back with money and that was the thing. He came with a big roll of neces, which sallors were still given in those days, and, because he was a purser, he'd bring frozen sheep and fruit from New Zealand and toys from Hong Kong and these things would pour into our lives for a couple of weeks and then he'd go away again and we'd be back on mince and potatoes. So he represented wealth and plenty."

STELLA GONET, ACTRESS

"He writes fantastically well for women, and that's a challenge because he makes them the heart and the soul of the work. The responsibility of delivering all that can be very daunting — he gives you every passion spoles, and the whole physical thing of getting through it, can be exhausted.

Why an II-year-old must know a grapheme from a cinquain

By Judith Judd Education Editor

THE NEW national literacy strategy gives teachers lists of common words which their pupils should be able to read by a particular age.

For five-year-olds there are 45 words including "look", "come" and "away". By six they should be familiar with at least 150 words including "laugh", "people", "schools" and "because". They should also be able to read easily the days of the week, months of the year, numbers one to 20, common colours, and their own and the school's name and address.

By the age of seven they should be able to spell 113 words such as "where", "after" and "who". Aged eight or nine, they should learn to read and TEST YOUR WORDPOWER

Do you know what these words mean? Teachers are expected to and they should form part of most II-year-olds' vocabulary.

. Assonance 3. Cinquain

4. Grapheme 5. Homonym Mnemonic

"thought" and "sometimes". Guidance on teaching children phonics and spelling is investigate, read and spell

following year they should learn "should recognise and take account of commas and exclamation marks in reading aloud".

The literacy hour should be divided into four, with the teacher teaching the while the time. At present most estimates suggest that primary school teachers spend only about 40 per cent of the time

teaching the whole class. For the first 15 minutes, poem with the whole class, equally detailed. During the emphasising understanding.

second term of the year in spelling, pnnctuation and which they are six, they should grammar. For the next 15 minutes, teachers should concenclass phnnics and spelling

For the following 20 minteach nne group while the ntbers work independently at reading or writing.

Finally, the teacher should gather the whole class to reinforce what they have learned class together for two-thirds of and to let pupils talk about what they have done.

Answers at foot of page

Calligram

spell another 119 words including "different", "important", words ending in -ff, -ll, -ss, -ck trate nn teaching the whole During the first term of the through individual words.

the common spelling patterns utes, the teacher should group for oo, ar, oy and ow and the children hy ability and

The document says that in recent years phonics have been neglected in favour of methods which rely on giving children books and assuming that they teachers should share a book or will learn from the context how words are spelled and what they

University defies police over 'obscene' photos

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A UNIVERSITY yesterday challenged the police to prosecute them for publishing "obscene material" after their ruling body unanimously voted to back their vice chancellor who has refused to destroy pictures by the controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

In the latest round of what is rapidly becoming an important test case against censorship an emergency meeting of the Senate of the University of Central England in Birmingham gave its support for moves to oppose the police. This follows a similar stance taken by the late Ameri- A still-life photograph by Mapplethorpe can photographer's publishers whn had been asked to pulp books of his that they held in stock or remove two pictures that House publishers should be prosecuted unare deemed to be "offensive" and illegal.

The action is being taken by the paedophile and pornography unit of the West Midlands police, which is expected to rec-



ommend that the university and Random der the 1959 Obscene Publications Act. Lawyers acting for the Crown Prose-

vised the police that they had grounds to have them destroyed. Dr Peter Knight, the university's vice-

chancellor, said after yesterday's meeting: "If the Director of Public Prosecutions decides to proceed ... then I as vice chancellor and the publisher will be arrested and charged. We would vigorously defend our case."

A copy of the book was seized by the police last October. They had been alerted by a chemist who developed photographs of the book taken by a student for a thesis. The photographs the police want to ban are "Helmut and Brooks, NYC, 1978", which shows a man "fisting" (a form of anal sex) another man. And "Jim and Tom, Sausalito, 1977", which is of a man in a dog collar, leather mask and trousers, urinating into another man's mouth.

A police spokeswoman said: "We will be submitting a file to the [CPS] in relation to possible ... action in relation to this case." cution Service decided two photographs
were likely to "deprave or corrupt" and ad-

in "dream team". 2. A poem in which the calligraphy, the formation of

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4 Written representation of a bruce bruce at the bruce A.2 Setters. 3. A poem with a standard Tractance to learns parrepresents an aspect of the poem's subject. A poem shout feet might be written in sitality Michael de lan is wat as two on pure pri visione in a specific is foreign Road, Greydon CRP 186. Direct Line Life Insurance Company sign (1965 2005 255, Replaced in England to Treston, Registered Ortfon: 5 Föreign Road, Greydon CRP 186. Direct Line Life Insurance Company sign and effice leventment wivion only about its own products. Direct Line Life Insurance Company Licelad in registated by the Pursonal leve apoliting or prominedation as another but with different meaning or origin.

6. A device to aid memory, for the device to aid memory. syllable pattern, illes a halfel, invented by Adelaide Crapsey, an American poet. A. Writeren representation of a is source fewor to notibegen .1 the letters or the font selected,



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Parliament kept out in double blow for Glasgow

By Kim Sengupta

ONE CAN imagine the howls of outrage down Sauchiehall Street. In a of Glasgow to be bitter about the deday of a double whammy, Glasgow cision, the Secretary of State relost the initial hosting of the Scottish Parliament to Edinburgh, and then lost its bid for money to estab-lish a National Gallery of Scottish Art they will not imagine that this was

The first blow came from Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scorland. Glasgow, which had promised a "bare-knuckle fight" to be the first home of the nation's first parliament in 300 years, was told it had lost the battle to the old rival Edinburgh, tra-

Then came the news that the Heritage Lottery Fund had turned down the £18.5m grant application for the

The Government had from the location of traditionalists. outset shown a preference for Ed-. inburgh to site the oew parliament but sought to stay on the moral high from its inception. That was confirmed yesterday despite an offer from Glasgow to house it in the Charing Cross building formerly used by Strathclyde Regional Council.

Mr Dewar said: "The Glasgow option ... was very attractive. It offered a suitable debating chamber and ample office accommodation nearby. I am very grateful to the been maintained. The Lord Provost, Glasgow Council." However, he continued: "A decisive factor was the need for the Parliament to put down al home of the Parliament and that voots in the vitally important early

"It would have been difficult for the Parliament and its staff established in Glasgow for the first two years to face a move to Edinburgh. That would be hard on businesses and other organisations seeking to establish a presence near to the Par-

pected to cost just £3m, and £din- scious of nationhood, the concept of burgh would be more expensive. But a Scottish gallery has been rejected," Mr Dewar said that was almost he said.

DYSON

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entirely because rates were higher

Asked if he expected the people sponded: "In a competition between sites there is always going to be a some kind of stitch-up to deny

But the Scottish Nationalist Party leader Alex Salmond claimed it indeed was a stitch-up. "It looks as though Glasgow was used as a pawn m order to get a better bid from Edinburgh," he said. "It's a shabby way ditionally viewed as the city of the to treat Glasgow and leaves a bad ste in the mouth."

Mr Salmond added that the dispute between the two cities could have been avoided by placing the Parliament in Calton Hill, the favoured

Glasgow officials were aggrieved ground. A City Council spokesman said: "We are proud of the case we made for Glasgow and believe that on quality and cost it was the best bid, Obviously we are disappointed the Secretary of State did not feel able to agree with us."

Edinburgh City Council members felt the natural order of things had Eric Milligan, said: "This is a recognition that Edinburgh is the naturit must meet here from the very be-Timothy Clifford, director of the

National Galleries of Scotland, noted the Lottery Fund's rejection of the Scottish Art and Design project came in the midst of focus on nationhood with the Scottish Parliament in the oews. "It is an irony that with a Parliament about to sit in Scot-The Glasgow option had been ex- land again, and with Scotland so con-



Female football agent ruled offside

By Rosa Prince

in England is being refused entry to the players' award ceremony because she is a woman.

Rachel Anderson, 40, was last year turned away at the door from the Professional Football Association's award ceremony, which is held at a London hotel.

When she was invited to this year's ceremony, which takes place oo 5 April, by the West Ham player Julian Dicks, she and Mr Dicks contacted the PFA in advance to make sure the same thing would oot

"The PFA Awards Dinner has been can receive. a men-only evening for the 25 years

Management Committee have made THE ONLY female football agent a decision that it should remain so." Ms Hunter, a respected Football

Association licensed agent, represents 27 footballers, including Mr Dicks, Sheffield United player Doo Hutchinson and Michael Hughes, who is also at West Ham. In her seven years working in football Ms Hunter said this is the only time she has encountered sexism.

The Professional Football Associatioo is a trade union for past and present professional footballers, and is affiliated to the TUC.

Their annual dinner includes an ward bestowed by the players them-Shewas tolding letter from PFA : selves, and is considered the most Chief Executive Gordon Taylor: prestigious accolade a footballer

ticket was checked by Brendan Batson, Deputy Chief Executive at the

Ms Hunter said: "He came up to me and said: 'There seems to have beeo some mistake. You can't come in, it's men only'." When Ms Hunter asked Mr Bat-

son, who is black, how he would feel if he were turned away oo the grounds of his race, he replied: "It is oot the same issue at all."

When Mr Dicks wrote to the PFA saying he was showing them a yellow card for their treatment of Ms Hunter, he was told by Mr Taylor: "Wherever possible we attempt to be progressive. I do not consider the policy of the Management Committee on this matter to be regres-At last year's ceremooy Ms sive ... As a matter of fact you are

has written to ask a female guest to accompany them in 25 years." The PFA told Ms Hunter they

would end their men-only rule once women became members of the Association. However, this is unlikely to happeo in the near future, as the PFA represents professional players and the women's game in this country remains amateur.

Katherine Knight of the FA said the Association was fully committed to the participation of women in football as spectators, players and administrators. She said: "The PFA's treatment of Rachel Anderson does seem to go against the general trend in the football in the way women are being viewed."

The PFA did not return several telephooe calls.

Lawrence inquiry set to resume

THE INQUIRY into the 1993 racist murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence in south-east London is to resume on Tuesday.

The hearing was postponed minutes after it began last Monday when the Lawrence family's legal team raised "very legitimate concerns" over a newspaper article accusing the inquiry chair-man, Sir William Macpherson of

Cluny, of racial insensitivity. However, after "assurances" by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who "reaffirmed" his "complete confidence" in Sir William, the Lawrences decided to continue to take part in the inquiry.

MS man not guilty

A MAN with multiple sclerosis who killed a woman and injured four pedestrians when his car careered out of control was yesterday found not guilty of causing death by dangerous driving by reason of insunity. Reginald Pull, 46, of Shotesham, Norfolk, lost control of his Ford Fiesta in the centre of Norwich in December 1996.

Bank bomb

A BOMB was lobbed into a crowded bank building by republicans in the centre of Londonderry yesterday. The device, contained in a holdall, was thrown into the bank by members of the breakaway Continuity IRA, No one was hurt

Range Rover recall

Rover is to recall 15,700 Range Rover Classic and Land Rover Discovery vehicles because of ao airbag problem, it was announced yesterday. Four cases have been reported in America of the driver's airbag inflating unnecessarily, although no accidents resulted.

MPs go green

MPs are to be given a special bicycle allowance in a move seen as a boost to the battle oo traffic pollutioo. From 1 April, they will get a 6.2p per mile payment while on Commons business.

Meanwhile, the Queen is backiog the drive for cleaner air - by ordering that four of the Royal Mewscars should be converted to run on liquid petroleum gas.









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By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

PARENTS planning to take young babies on long-haul flights were advised oot to worry yesterday after research suggested some infants could reduced oxygeo levels to the cabin.

Experts said that flying appeared although it was probably wise to wait a week after birth to ensure the infant there have been oo recorded in-They were responding to findings in the past 10 years.

from a study of 34 infants who were exposed in air containing 6 per cent less oxygen than normal, similar to that in an aircraft cabin or up a mountain. The babies were carefully monitored and four suffered a fall in oxygen levels in their blood associated with disturbed heart rhythms and shortness of in the first year of life. breath. They were giveo extra oxygen

The study, by Professor David Southall and colleagues from the North Staffordshire Hospital Centre, British Medical Journal, was carried out after two sets of parents seen at the hospital reported losing a child to cot

death after a long-haul flight. Yester-day, Anne Diamond, the televisioo presenter who has played prominent role in cot death campaigns, disclosed that her own baby soo died two days after a flight.

In an editorial in the BMJ, Anthony be at risk of cot death from the Milner, professor of aeonatology at St Thomas' Hospital, Loodon, said the findings needed to be put in context. to be safe in the first year of life British Airways, which flies more than 34 million passengers a year, says stances of cot deaths during a flight

Professor Milner said the physiological effects of breathing low levels of oxygen oo infants had been carefully studied, but these did not necessarily mean they were at greater risk. "All the epidemiological evidence indicates that _ flying appears to be safe

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths said: "The study did not demonstrate a greater cot death risk on an aeroplane than oo the ground. It tells us that some babies react more in Stoke-on-Treot, published in the dramatically than others to a drop in oxygen and this is an interesting finding which oeeds to be pursued in fur-



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Expert who likes to court controversy

tricians who would have cootemplated carrying out a study in which infants were deprived of oxygen, writes Jeremy Laurance. Even the North Staffordshire Hospital Centre's own research ethics committee initially rejected the proposal because of fears about the possible danger to babies involved. But Professor David Southall is used to courting cootroversy.

He was the doctor responsible for covertly videoing parents suspected of child abuse while their children were in hospital Between 1986 and 1994, 39 children were filmed being attacked by apparently caring parents and step-parents which led to 33 criminal prosecutions.

However, his methods were riticised by psychiatrists concerned about infringement of the surveillance operation and agent provocateur.

In a separate study cooducted between 1989 and 1993 in which premature babies with breathing problems were placed oo a oew type of respirator. some pareots complained they were oot told their children were being given experimental treatment. In all 122 babies took part, of whom 28 died and 15 were left hrain damaged.

A oumber of families cootacted a local solicitor, James Evans, claiming their children had been used as guinea pigs and that they had only found out about the trial wheo Professor Soothall and his colleagues published their findings in an American journal which highlighted the dangers of the treat-

THERE are not many paedia- meot. However, the hospital said the pareots had been told about the trial but may have forgotteo because of the stress they were under.

HOLIDAY.

iona

Mr Evans yesterday said inquiries were cootinuing to see whether the pareots had a legal case. "The questions are whether proper informed conseot was obtained and whether: the ventilator was safe." Ethical questions have also

been raised about the new study, published io today's British Medical Journal, which are examined in two accompa-. nying commeotaries. Despite its initial concerns, the hospital ethics committee agreed to let the study go ahead because its members were convinced it would be safe, with a paedia-trician oo stanting, and that the parents would be properly in privacy and the risk of exposing formed and no coerción would children to further harm during be used. However, Julian Savulescu, of the Centre for Hu-3 man Bioethics, Victoria, Australia, says there was already some evidence of risk before the study began, it had no thera-; peutic benefit and it is unclear ! whether the parents were fully

aware of the danger. The only benefit to the parents was in learning whether their child was one who responded badly to a reduction in oxygeo levels in the air. They could theo avoid loog-haul flights or mountain holidays until their child was older.

Mr Savulescu concludes there is some value in the study but "a balance must always be research which might eliminate continuing harm and making it as safe and ethical as

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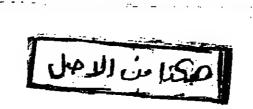
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The Thomson Travel Group. Britain's number one holiday company is about to be floated.

to court **'oversy**

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When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

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ATWO YEAR THE

died after public

'The deck is stacked against us, say casinos

If you tell your

will the think

less of you?

gulfriend.

CASINOS - dealt an-unwelcome hand in the Budget - are number of clubs. fighting back and demanding reform of the 30-year-old gaming

hike in gambling duty, the casinos said the increase could force gambling underground.

On Monday they will call for rigidly governed their industry for 30 years to be updated.

casmo operators is rules on the maximum number of gamclub. The number was increased from three to six in 1996.

But most casinos in Europe

The chips are down?

There are 116 casinos in the UK including 21 in London. The industry is worth more than £2.3 bn a year. It will pay more than £100m a year garning duty following Tuesday's increase. ■ Nearly II million people a

year go to a casino. The average spend outside London is £20. In London. there are a handful of people who will spend hundreds of thousands.

Outside London, 65 per cent of players are men and

35 per cent women. ■ Until last year, you could gamble until the early hours but drinking had to stop at normal pub closing time.

the large Las Vegas venues as keeps watch on the industry, many as 5,000. As much as thought the law should he three-quarters of revenue can looked at. come from the machines.

being allowed to play.

members to be able to apply by al £20m for the Treasury. post and then bring identificamation. Membership of one another one in the same group, overseas visitors, said if the

the casmos say. The proposals ha backing of, among others, the cent of the extra duty. British Tourist Authority, which would like to include details of casinos in its guides.

been virtually unchanged since versed," he said.

1968 when the Gaming Act was rushed through Parliament to regulate a rapidly increasing

The British Casino Association will argue on Monday that things have changed since the Reeling under a surprise year of the Paris riots and assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King.
A spokesman said: The

world has moved on, but casino the regulations which have legislation is stuck in a Sixties timewarp.

"The casino industry values The main irritation for the sensible regulation for the benefit of the industry and its customers, but an act which was ing machines permitted in any conceived in the Sixties is out of step with modern society."

Mike Allison, a casino consultant, said: "Since 1968, casinos have developed worldwide. Nearly everybody who has looked at British legislation has said it's really not appropriate for the late 20th century.

"In the provinces, the average spend on the gaming tables per person per visit is in the region of £20. That's the cost of theatre tickets and a bag of chips. It's now a low-cost mainstream entertainment.

"At the moment, overseas visitors laugh at us. It's quite embarrassing."

Legislation was being prepared by the last government, but was lost with the election and the new Labour government has shown no great willingness to push it forward.

A Home Office spokeswoman said: "Certainly the present legislation is old and quite complicated, but overhauling it will require a comprehensive review." She said have between100 and 500, and the Gaming Board, which

The industry's long-running Other problems they cite gripes were compounded on include the han on advertising Tuesday when Gordoo Brown, of any sort and the requirement the Chancellor, announced that that members should register in the top rate of duty payable on person 24 hours in advance of casinos' gross gaming yield-the amount left over after gamblers' The casinos want to be able winnings - would rise to 40 per to place limited advertising in cent from 33.5 per cent from 1 local ocwspapers and would-be April, generating an addition-

Alan Goodenough, chief extioo to the casino for confir- ecutive of London Clubs International, which attracts much casino should entitle the use of of the lucrative business from measure had been in force last year, it would have paid 60 per

"We shall be pressing as strongly as possible to persuade the Government that this is a The rules on gamhling have mistake and should be re-



A number of grievances: Casinos want more gaming machines, permission to advertise and a relaxation of membership rules



Boy, 2, killed by reversing ice cream van

died after running out to greet said a crowd of children had run an ice cream van and being towards the van as it apknocked down as it reversed.

urs car be useful.

your best mate.

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Liam Fuller, from Coventry, West Midlands, heard the van's jingle as he played with a football in a relative's front garden on Thursday, opened the gate and ran into the road.

He was taken to Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital but died of head injuries shortly after admission.

Liam's mother Michaela Fuller, 27, yesterday described the moment she heard he had beeo involved in an accideot. Someone told me he was in

hospital and I just burst into tears," she said. "He is my only

"I got together his little pyjamas and took them to the emergency ward but it was all "He was a cheeky little chap

hut so beautiful. My world has fallen apart." Michaela's partner Jason

King, 24, said: "We will miss him so much." Liam's aoot, Miss Sheila

King, said Liam was playing football in another aunt's front garden in the Wood End area of Coventry when he heard the ice creams so much and would ice cream van.

"He kicked the football away, unlatched the gate and went to greet the van.

"His aunt only let him out of Her sight for a minute but when self." she looked out she saw him lying under the van.

"She blames herself. This is an absolute tragedy." Linda Taylor, 34, who was

A TWO-YEAR-OLD boy has near the scene of the accident, proached, and they had all wanted to be at the head of the

> "The first thing I heard was someone shouting and I thought they were shouting at the children to calm down. "I came out of the house and

I saw little Liam lying there. "I turned him on his side and felt his pulse and then put a towel over him to keep him

Ms Taylor said Liam had been staying with his aunt, Kerry Fuller, and added: "Kerry was kneeling. She was hysterical, just in floods of tears. She was desperate for Liam to survive."

Mary King, 51, the boy's grandmother, said Liam was a mischievous but lovely little boy who loved the Teletubbies. "He had Teletubbies bed-

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sheets, Teletubbies curtains and Teletubbies clothes. I can't believe he's been taken away from

Miss King said the child had been warned about running into the road when he heard ice cream vans coming. "He just loved lollipops and

jump for joy when he heard the ice cream jingle," she said. "We had told him before

never to run into the road but this time he couldn't help him-West Midlands police are in-

vestigating the incident and are appealing for witnesses. The driver of the ice cream

van has not been named

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Hague burns bridges in tirade against euro

WILLIAM HAGUE yet again hardened bis opposition to a European single currency, suggesting that Britain's economgear with the rest of Europe.

But in a speech that drew upon every conceivable argument against the currency, the Conservative leader also warned that the euro could whip up the hridges. same kind of "full-blown banking and financial crisis" that had hit South East Asia.

"Don't let anyone tell you that it couldn't happen here." Mr Hague told a conference of the Federation of Small Busiwickshire, "Few people foresaw the collapse of the Asian tigers."

Mr Hague also gave notice that the Conservatives will oppose the Working Families Tax Credit, which is designed to ease the poverty and unemployment traps, and provide help for parents with childcare costs, when it is fully introduced in April 2000.

The credit offers working families a guaranteed income of at least £180 a week, with fulltime earnings of £100, and will ensure that families earning less than £220 a week - half the average male earnings - will pay no income tax.

But it was the section of his speech on the single currency

pro-Europeans fearing yet and away the most important more Tory warfare on the eve of next year's European parliameotary elections.

Mr Hague repeated the formula that the Tories would opic cycle might "never" get into pose joining the single currency before and at the next election - an effective ten-year embargo - hut he went on to suggest such strenuous hostility that he appeared to be hurning all

Opening the euro section of his speech with an attack on the no exit." policies of both Margaret Thatcher and John Major, he said: "The best policy for small business is a sound policy for the economy that avoids unsusnesses at Kenilworth, War- taioahle hooms, which inevitably cause deep recession. There is no question that the last Government got it wrong in the late-1980s and early-1990s."

With Nigel Lawson as Chancellor, they had shadowed the German mark; with Mr Major, they had joined the Exchange

apologise for failing businesses, uoemploymeot because we joined a European political project when the time was not right," Mr. Hague said.

whether it would ever be right for Britain to join the single currency - "the ERM set in stone", with no escape route - Mr

sions within his own party, with word "never". He said that far condition of suitability for entry was "that our economic cycle should be the same as Europe's. This has not happened in the last 25 years. It is quite possible that it never will ...

> "But unless it is met, the euro could lead to huge booms and deep recession. For us in Britain it could make the ERM look like economic bliss because the euro could lead to prolonged and deep recession with

> He said the fundamental weakness of the euro was that it had a one-size interest rate. that could not be varied to suit the different conditions of different member states.

"The same interest rate needed to coax Germany and France out of recession is the interest rate to curb a boom elsewhere. With the euro, the only option left to rein in a runaway economy is massive tax in-

"If Britain joined a single "Never again do I want to currency, huge tax increases might he required at some high interest rates and soaring point to stop the economy spinning out of cootrol," he said.

And in a clear lock on his own future room for manoeuvre, Mr Hague added: "It is ex-As for the question of traordinary that giveo Britain's uniformly unhappy experience of fixed exchange rates, that the Government oow wants to join the most extreme form of fixed Hague agaio suggested the exchange rate ever invented."



Blair beams in on German poll

"We haven't got a Tony Blair," growled Chancellor Helmut Kohl, casting a furtive glance at the Prime Minister sitting next to him. Germany did not have foreign investments either, Mr Kohl admitted before proceeding to lavish praise on the

economic policies of his guest. Throughout the press conference, he barely managed a smile. This was clearly a difficult day for the Chancellor, inviting as it did unfavourable comparisons between himself and his challenger, Gerhard challenger in this year's elec-

offended by being cast in the leagues for a meeting and the Blairite mould. "With our very high taxes we are frightening away foreign investors," said Mr Kohl, as if forgetting be has been in charge of tax affairs for 15 years. But if he was trying to make an electoral point, he missed the opportunity.

The only meeting the German media cared about was that between Mr Blair and his German imitator. However hard the British camp tried to stay out of the election battle, Mr Schröder suckered them into it. Hearing of the visit, the Chancellor's

Schröder, who is certainly not tions invited himself and col- er ties with business. "We both and this "allows us to chair disinevitable photo-op. On the stairs of the British ambassador's residence, Mr Schröder proved he could grin with the best. Thus, unlike his rival, he turned the mini-event into an important stage oo the campaign trail. Mr Blair, he said with a broad smile, was "an nuusually nice man. I have rarely met a persoo who can speak with such authority on social

> and economic affairs." The two had "thorough discussions" about British ideas for reducing unemployment, and Mr Schröder'a recipe for clos-

agree it makes more sense to finance work than unemployment," Mr Schröder added.

Whether any such agreement was reached, the other side would not say. But on a visit evidently short of content, Mr Schröder's embrace of the Britoo he hopes to emulate will be the enduring image.

Mr Blair was in Bonn for a day to discuss the most burning to have made little progress. The British presidency, he said, would play a "a fully constructive part in launching the euro. flies to Paris laden with German Our position is open," be said, optimism and little else.

cussions io ao impartial way". One of the main outstanding questions is who sbould run the Europeao Ceotral

The job is up for grabs between Wim Duisenberg, the Dutchman favoured by Germany, and Fraoce's Jean-Claude Trichet. Mr Blair is trying to broker a deal, so far without any apparent success. "I European issues, and appears am quite optimistic that we'll find a positive solution," was all Mr Kohl would say yesterday.

Next week the Prime Minister

Praise for Budget 'masterstroke'

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

HERR BLAIR mania has hit Germany, according to the Whitehall machine, which yesterday issued a Foreign Office telegram showing enthusiastic German press reaction to the

But ooc of the Prime Minister's spokesmen then capped heavyweight and popular press. cial welfare state and the diplomatic cable with news It said that the popular Bild encourage people to take lowof the political programme to be Zeitung had give the Budget a put to the German SPD's party conference, next month.

According to Blair's man in London, the programme in-cludes such plagiarist political gems as: "Our goal is a stakeholder society; calls for cuts in corporation tax, and increases in child benefit; welfare to

work, with carrot-and-stick inducements to get people into jobs or training, and on law and the causes of crime".

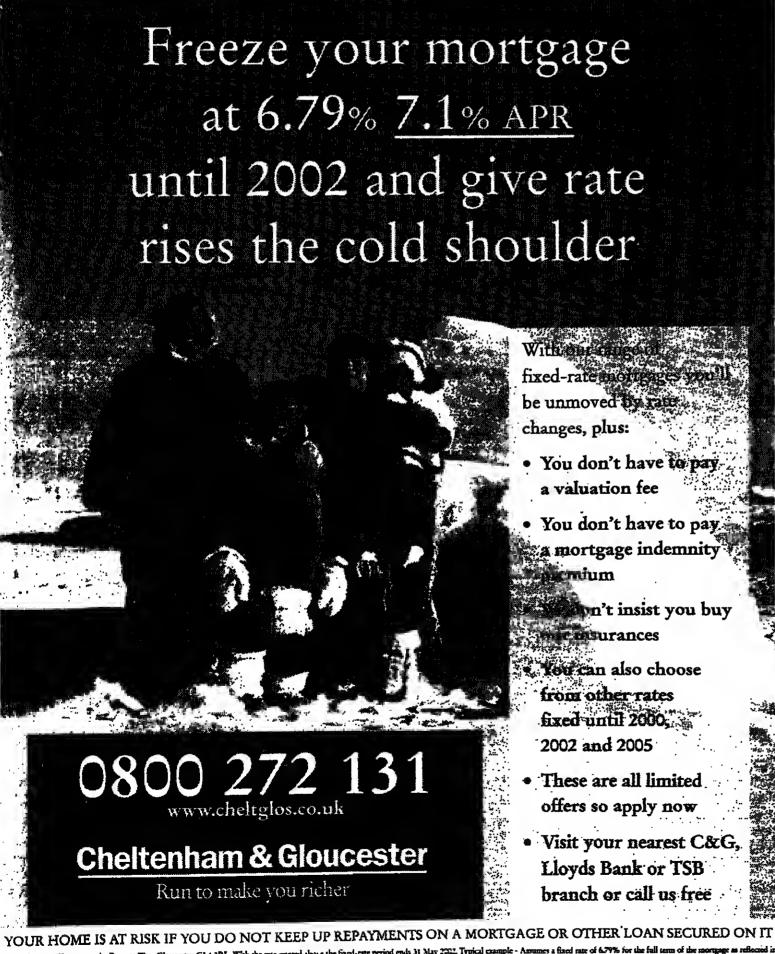
The "unclassified" FCO telegram on German press re-

prominent factual article and the paper's main editorial. headlined "Greatl", said: Britain was in the lead when industrialisation began. Germany took a bundred years to catch up. Now the British are dashing away again. Let's bope we will not be left far behind."

The cable says: "Neue Zuricher Zeitung [widely read in Germany] describes the budorder, the German equivalent get as a British masterstroke of, "Tough on crime, tough oo - which leaves little ground for opposition attacks'. Frankfurter Rundschau and the Suddeutche Zeitung [both leading liberal actions to the Budget could not dailies praise in particular the have been more supportive, cit-measures which the Chaoceling strong praise in both the lor bas taken to reform the soencourage people to take low-

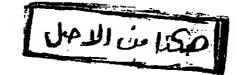
paid jobs. The Bonn embassy also reports that Handelsblatt - the "FT equivalent" -described the Budget as a complete success, saving, in essence, The reforms to the welfare state mark a clear break with Thatcherism, but the Budget is also enterprise-friend-

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Roddick sows seeds of dissent



Prison officers at Scrubs accused of revenge threats

By Jason Bennetto

Crime Correspondent

SEVERAL of the immates who accused jail staff at Wormwood Scrubs of brutal heatings have been threatened by prison officers in the past few days, it was claimed vesterday.

The number of former and serving prisoners who have complained of systematic vio- cerned that they are being inlence against them has also doubled to more than 20, and the names of a further dozen have been given to solicitors. About 20 named prison officers have been accused of attacks and racist abuse.

The law firm which presented a dossier of complaints that provoked an official inquiry into the allegations said vesterday that some of the inmates still at the west London jail had told them that prison staff were intimidating them.

A spokeswoman for the solicitors Hickman and Rose said: They are veiled threats, they are nnt being blatant and saying immates will be beaten. Fingers are being pointed at our clients for completing the dossier."

She added: "We are con-

cerned because it is very easy for prison officers to discover who has made the complaints against them."

Nick Flynn, deputy director penal reform group, which has been working with the law firm, said: "Some of the prisoners involved have not been moved from the Scrubs and we are con-

Mr Flynn argued that a full judicial inquiry should be held into the allegations and the failure to ophold any complaints against officers.

He said: "Fingers need to be pointed at the internal work of the complaints system and the work of the Board of Visitors. "I think it's a failure of the

internal watchdog and monitoring system if allegations have been made for several years and prisoners have been walking round with visible signs of abuse and black prisoners have been victims of abuse, it's a huge indictment of the complaints and monitoring system.

"Because the entire system has failed so badly there's a good argument that this should go to a judicial inquiry."

Mr Flynn added that accused officers should either be suspended or moved from the jail during the inquiry.

The new allegations of inof the Prison Reform Trust, the timidation came as Peter Atherton, a former governor of maximum-security Long Lartin jail in Worcestershire, was named as the man in charge of the Prison Service inquiry into the Wormwood Scrubs allega-

> The inquiry team is expected to produce an interim report by the end of the month.

> Fresh ammunition to support the prisoners' allegations was provided on Thorsday when the jail's Board of Visitors published its nanual report highlighting concerns about reports of brutal treatment being meted out to inmates.

> The onion representing prison officers has attacked the way the inquiry is proceeding arguing that so far no evidence has been produced to back op the allegations.

They are also concerned that prisoners who bear officers a grudge will use the current controversy to make false accusations with the hope of gaining compensation.

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FIFA ROAD TO WORLD CUP 9:

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Charles the manning.

By Kate Watson-Smyth

THE Body Shop yesterday

launched a oew range of products made from Cannabis Sati-

va, or industrial hemp, and

in England's loogest libel case.

"McLibel" two, will today lead

a picket oo the Body Shop's Ox-

ford Street store in London,

handing out leaflets accusing

Anita Roddick's shops of damaging the environment and the

world's poor, despite the com-

pany's claims to the contrary.

the international environmen-

consumerism" which is no bet-

ter than other consumerism.

Dave Morris, ooc of the

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social alienation." It also airs criticisms about the "naturalness" of Body Shop products, its animal testing policy and its attitudes to trade unions.

A spokeswoman yesterday immediately came under attack dismissed the accusations, which from the campaigners who em- she said were first made four barrassed McDonald's last year years ago and had already beeo rebutted. "While we are oot the on animals, we do trade beneficially with indigenous peoples, we act to limit environmental impact and we respect the hu-

He and other members of taking" as she handed oot graph pole to get high." the Londoo Greenpeace anar- cannabis seeds to launch the

organisation not connected with ucts made from hemp. Ann Widdecombe, a fortal campaign, claim that Body Shop is an example of "green made from the Cannabis Sati-The leaflet, headed "What's

wrong with the Body Shop", says: In reply, Ms Roddick said: "The world's problems will only be tackled by curbing such con-

Ms Roddick handed out the seeds but warned that anyone planting them would be breaking the law and could be arrested. It can be grown only with

a licence from the Home Office. The industrial hemp plant contains only a fraction of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, but the two plants perfect company, we don't test are from the same family and growing hemp could lead to prosecution under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act.

However, the seed packets man rights of our staff," she said. come with the warning: "Do not Earlier, Ms Roddick, the attempt to use the plant as a founder of the company, was accused of "making a joke of drug- smoke a joint the size of a tele-

· Hemp was one of the most chist group, an independent new range of moisturising prod- environmentally friendly, easily grown and versatile natural products, Ms Roddick said, but mer Home Office minister, said it had been the subject of a Ms Roddick was being "whol- smear campaign because of its ly irresponsible" by introducing association with the drugs culthe products because they are ture: "Ignorance confuses bemp with marijuana, a member of the same plant genus."

She added that she would be "With all the current problems backing British growers for our farmers face I'd expect po- more freedom to cultivate the





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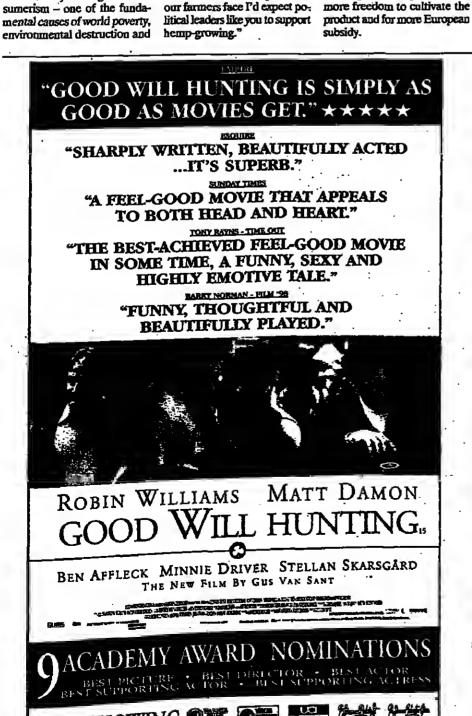
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Car crash left salesman 'too nice' to do the job

to £320,000 yesterday because Court of Appeal. although a road accident made

Charles Cornell suffered sedent on the M11 in Essex in a "reputable sales force". 1991 which left him "a more

the aggression necessary for "for the better", his "less agessive" manner robbed him of his thrusting nature and be was rious brain injuries in the acci- described as "unemployable" in

He had been awarded

But because the defendant

But although frieods and had paid £175,000 into court to him "a better person", he last relatives thought the change was settle the case, Mr Cornell would have ended with nothing because he faced paying all the legal bills under court rules.

Three appeal judges increased his award after finding that he should bave been given

count the problems be faced in finding jobs.

The judges had heard that a clinical psychologist, Dr Graham Powell, who examined Mr Cornell, of south-west Loudon, found that he was now only capable of "muddling through

life" and his future employment

insurance business partner, Robert Green, left the motorway and ploughed into a field.

He suffered multiple injuries, including damage to the frontal lobes of his brain which impaired his IQ, caused inter- rovian who gained two A-levels ket place. His skills had been

£87,500 to £60,000, but increased the £30,000 he was awarded for future loss of earn-

Lord Justice Stuart Smith said Mr Cornell - an Old Har- no longer compete in the mar-

He had lost the aggression, a capacity for hard work". employed. concentration and thrusting nature necessary for a successful insurance salesman and could

A SALESMAN'S damages pleasant personality", said Lord f156,143 damages by a High award was more than doubled Justice Stuart Smith in the Court judge in January 1996, earnings which took into action and the content area of the content and the content area of the cont The judges cut his award for the bottom of the market" since been voted one of the most sucwhen a car being driven by his injury, pain and suffering from the accident and was now un-

The judge said the accident had taken away his "competitive edge" and he often fell asleep in the afternoons - a situation "few employers would tolerate".



'samizdat' version of the Morning Star produced by striking journalists

'Star' row threatens endangered species

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

Worker, then the Morning Star and now it has re-emerged, if seotatives of the National briefly, as The Workers' Morn- Unioo of Journalists met yesing Star. Yesterday striking jour- terday at the Acas conciliation nalists at the paper made an service to try to resolve the disuncomradely two-fingered ges- pute. Last weekend Mr Haylett ture at their management by appealed to the paper's manpublishing a samizdat version.

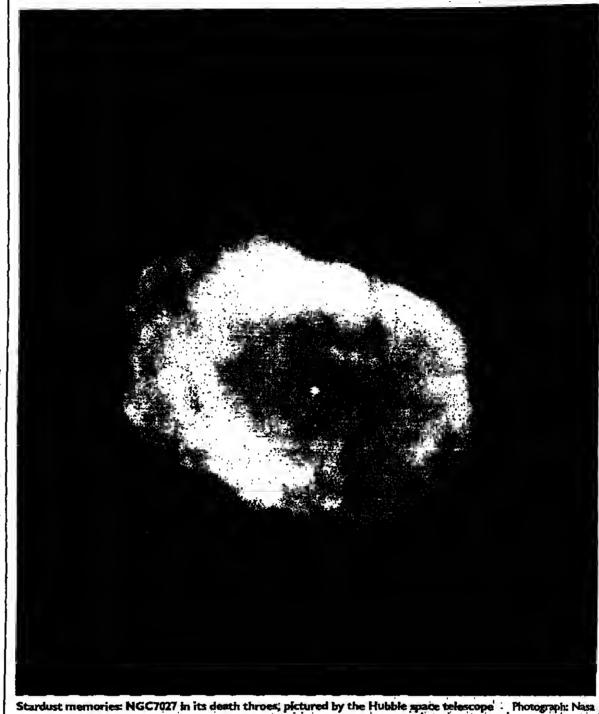
The Morning Star proper has been off the streets for three weeks because of a walkout over the suspension and subsequent dismissal of Juhn Haylett, the payroll, which means he will be editor. Strikers have published for the Star but yesterday they produced an eight-page tabloid find it ironic that staff introduced the adjective "Workers" it. Mr Haylett has been accused organisation associated with into the masthead, given that of "gross industrial misconthe Star was always supposed to duct", partly for unauthorised have been produced for the pro- use of the office computer sys-

isteoce of the last Communist world. Managers and repreagement committee, but his attempt to win reinstatement

But the Star's controlling committee put him back on the ring £10,500 a year, the sum yesterday were aimed at drawing up the terms of reference of and deciding who should sit on

letariat by the proletariat. The tem. NUJ members say the stoppage threatens the very ex- charge is "trumped up" and accuse Mary Rosser, chief exec-FIRST it was called the Daily daily in the English-speaking utive, of nepotism for promoting her son-in-law from deputy editor to editor in place of Mr Haylett.

The conflict began because of clash of personalities but is in danger of escalating into the kind of vicious political war beloved of the left. Management accuses strikers of cosying up to Arthur Scargill and his Socialist Labour Party, while in reply, journalists are levelling an allegation which for a Communist is the final insult. Picktwo other small A3 substitutes paid to all staff members. Talks ets which attend daily outside the Star's offices in Hackney, east London, say their bosses version. Habitual readers will a special appeals committee are becoming too friendly with the Socialist Action group, an Trotsky, or the Great Beelzebub as he is known to orthodox



Dying star provides nursery for new suns

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

THE DEATH of our Suo is probably going to look like this, five billioo years or so from now: the moment when the hydrogen and helimm from its core are thrown off into interstellar space, where they can create a new generation of stars.

This picture, captured by the Hubble space telescope, is actually of a star called NGC7027, which is 3,000 light-years away in the direction of the constellation Cygnus. It is in the stage known as a "planetary nebula" - because viewed by small telescopes, such cosmic explosinns looked like the disc of a placet.

When a star starts to die, the nuclear fuel at its heart runs out and a very dense, cool shell of hydrogen molecules is deposited around the star, far into space. The human eye cannot see this shell, but Hubble's infrared camera can. In the picture, the actual star is the intense white dot, while the shell of hydrogeo atoms appears as the red wisps surrounding ir, the white wisps are stellar dust. The actual distance between the star's surface and the shell is roughly 1.2 billion miles

In a period lasting about 1,000 years, the molecular shell is atomized, and the resulting atoms are flung into space by a "solar wind" from the star, Meanwhile the matter thrown off will form the most primitive building blocks for other stars, planets - and any life that may form oo them.



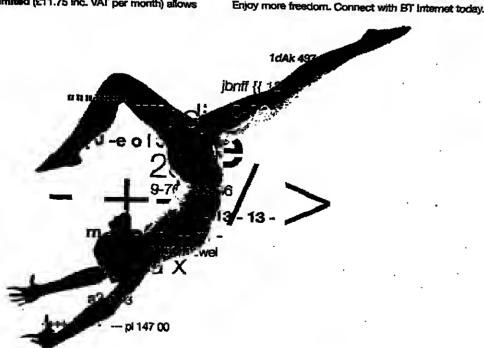
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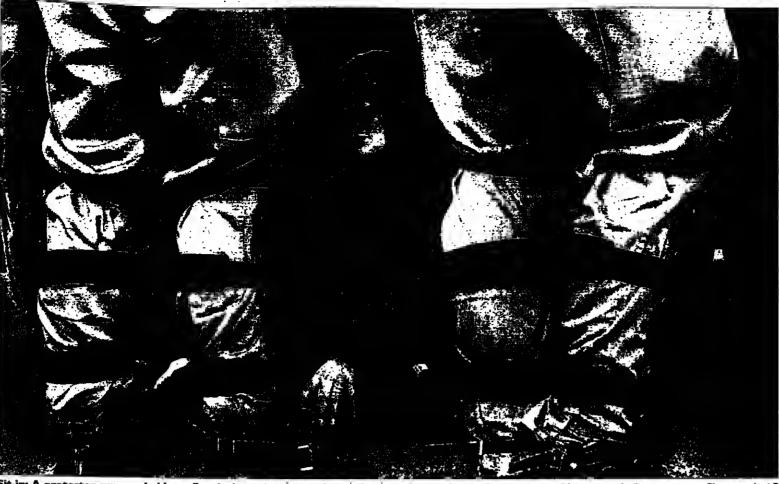
y Charles Arthur

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Silent Series



Sit-in: A protester surrounded by police during a demonstration against a train carrying nuclear waste to Ahaus, north Germany

Running battle over nuclear waste train

By Imre Karacs in Benn

A 30,000-STRONG police force used water cannons to secure the route of a train carrying nuclear waste which was due to arrive in the north-German town of Ahaus last night.

Protesters had chained themselves to the tracks and one policeman died after being accidentally run over by a locomotive as the annual confrontation between environmentalists and the nuclear industry approached its climax.

The train, carrying six containers of spent nuclear fuel from power plants in southern Germany, had to thread its way past thousands of demonstrators. The destination of the 300-mile journey was the storage site near Ahaus, a small Münsterland market town near the Dutch border.

Singing Sixties protest songs, Photograph: AP protesters chained themselves

some instances, police dragged them away one by one. In the centre of Ahaus, police used ba-

demonstration. "It's just chaos," said Andre Obermeier, a spokesman from Ahaus anti-nuclear group. "It just shows how pointless the site, as Germany has no plans shipment is, how unnecessary they could have stored it in the power plants where it came from for years."

Anti-nuclear groups estimated that about 5,000 protesters had pitched tents in the vicinity of Ahaus, considerably fewer than expected. The authorities had wrong-footed organisers by setting the convoy off several days earlier than advertised. Thousands of environmentalists were racing across Germany vesterday to catch up.

Wolfgang Clement, state premier-designate of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Social

to the tracks, undermined roads Democrat-controlled state in and occupied intersections. In which Ahaus is located, called the shipments a provocation and "irresponsible madness".

Activists say the waste contons to break up a smaller tainers are not leakproof and the cargo could cause an environmental disaster. They complain that the waste will sit indefinitely at the temporary yet for permanent storage.

Three previous nuclear waste transports since 1995, all to another temporary site in Gorleben, were hampered by fierce protests.

The latest cargo was brought on separate trains from nuclear power plants in the southern towns of Gundremmingen and Neckarwestheim for assembly at Walheim. In Neckarwestheim. hundreds of demonstrators staged a sit-in on Thursday blocking the power-plant entrance. Police in riot gear picked up the demonstrators and

Greek bad boys clean up their **EU** image

By Rupert Cornwell

A 14 PER CENT devaluation of the currency is perhaps an unusual way of proving one's credentials. But by drastically ma last weekend and vowing the join the single currency by 2001, Greece is starting to shed its reputation as the European Union's problem child.

Devaluation should place the previously overvalued. drachma on an even keel for the it's like pressing a button." required two-year participation. in the exchange rate mechanism Brussels than Greek use of its before membership of monetary veto to advance the country's union proper. And if the country can weather an immediate ly its refusal to sanction a fiupward blip in prices, it is on nancial package for Ankara course to meet the Maastricht after the dispute over the criteria, if not this year then in Aegean island of Imia. The 1999. Inflation is 4 per cent and EU's failure to honour that falling, and the budget deficit is commitment, as well as the within bailing distance of the continuing refusal to admit Maastricht ceiling of 3 per cent.

drachma's entry into the ERM are unclear. In one sense, it further isolates Britain, along with Sweden and Norway, as grumpy Northern bold-outs against monetary union. But it is equally possible that the presence of annther devaluation-prone symbol of Mr Simitis's detercountry in Emu may reinforce mination to modernise the doubts in Germany and its tra- economy, 60 per cent of which lites about the wisdom of the Papandreou, be no longer plays enterprise. It is beyond argu- with fire in the Balkans. ment, however, that it under-Europe of prime minister et Union and the former Yu-

"Europe is the main focus of Greek foreign policy," Mr Pangalos declared this week - an assertion that might sound strange to those schooled in the anti-European rhetoric of the markets. "There are economic former Socialist prime minister reasons for us to work for Andreas Papandreou, and the peace," Mr Pangalos said.

endless diplomatic warfare with Turkey that has made most of Europe rue the day in 1981 when Greece joined the then EEC.

The obsession with Turkey on display again last weekend lowering the parity of the drach- at Edinburgh when the EU agreed a compromise to the opening of the stations of Cyprus — can still the te "Pangalos is fine, very clever and very European," one of his colleagues remarked privately. "But then Turkey comes up, and

Nothing grates more in cause against Turkey, most late-Turkey for membership, are The repercussions of the the prime reasons for today's crisis between Ankara and the EU - a crisis into which it it has been in part dragged by Greek

membership. But in other respects, Greece is a reformed creature. Emu entry is but the most vivid ditional hard-currency satelis is in state hands. And unlike Mr

Athens has realised that lines the commitment to with the break-up of the Sovi-Costas Simitis, and his foreign goslavia, it has become a major minister, Theodore Pangalos. regional economic power with a GDP larger than the other Balkan countries combined. Greece may import goods from the EU, but the Balkans and Eastern Europe are good export

Ailing Yeltsin reappears

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin made a brief and unexpected visit to the Kremlin yesterday after a week-long illness, working on plans for a summit next week with the French and German leaders. The venue for the summit, which had been planned for the Urals city of Yekaterinburg, was moved to Moscow, raising more questions about the President's bealth.

Exile rings the changes

THE EXILED Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam denied a report that be had arranged to move to North Korea in anticipation of an end to Robert Mugabe's rule in Zimbabwe. Mr Mugabe faces a party revolt after a prominent MP called for his ousting. Mr Mengistu denied reports that his exile cost Zimbabwean taxpayers Z\$50m (£1.8m), including a huge bill for phone calls that Mr Mugabe's office had paid.

— AP, Harare

Amnesty condemns Nigeria

AMNESTY International said arrests and beatings in Nigeria had continued "shamelessly" right up to the Pope's visit this weekend. The Pope is to hold an open-air Mass and meet the head of state, General Sani Abacha, on his visit to Nigeria, scheduled for the beatification of a Nigerian monk. — Reuters, London



Castro grabs the cameras to show delight at US move

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

IN A remarkable turnarouod for one of the most prickly fareign policy relationships in the world, the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, rewarmth to news from Washington eased. Even before the formal announcement had been made by the nocuvre that Cuba could not accept. US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, yesterday, Mr Castro apglobal news network, CNN, to describe the changes as "really positive".

US officials had let it be known the previous day that an announceof policy towards Cuba. It was expected to include the resumption of direct flights between the US and Cuba, an increase in the amount of medicine and pharmaceutical supplies provided to humanitarian organisations in Cuba, and permission however, that, while the economic for Cuban exiles in the US to remit a limited amount of money - up to \$1,200 (£725) annually – to relatives in Cuba.

In his response, Mr Castro said the changes would help improve relations between the US and Cuba and pledged Cuba would do its part return the situation to what it was two

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to make things better. He stressed, though, that Havana would not abandoo the nne-party system, and said he wanted to see full details nf the announcement before giving a full assessmeot.

Cuba's foreign minister, Robersponded immediately and with to Robaina, who was in Geneva, appeared out of line with the new tone. that economic sanctions were to be He dismissed the US moves as "crumbs" and part of a political ma-

Explaining the pulicy shift in advance, US officials said the decisioo peared before the cameras of the reflected broad consultation oo Cuba policy on the part of the US administration and the positive re-sults of the receot visit to Cuba by the Pope. They stressed that the polment was imminent on a relaxation icy shift was in recognition of the greater "space" allowed to opponents of Fidel Castro's communist regime in the wake of the Pope's visit, and designed to assist people without assisting the regime.

Their commeots also made clear, Washington was no longer aiming to use political and economic isolation to topple Mr Castro. This detail that may explain the Cuban leader's pos-

In one respect, the policy changes

years ago, before Cuba shot down two small planes piloted by Cuban exiles. In others - the increase in medical supplies, and possible sales of food - they go further, and open the way for an eventual relaxation of the economic embargo. A softening of US policy also makes it less likely Washington will apply the Helms-Burton law - which threatens sanctions against third countries and individuals that do business with Cuba. This would remove a source of tension in Washingtoo's relations with Euro-

Domestic reaction in the US was divided, illustrating the sensitivity of any change in US Cuba policy. The large and vocal Cuban exile community in Florida was split between groups pleased that maintaining ties with relatives would be easier, and those objecting that the memory of the four dead pilots was being dis-

pean countries and Canada.

There was strong oppositioo, too, from the chairman of the Senembargo would remain in force, ate foreign relations committee, Jesse Heims, and two Cuban-born congressmen from Florida, Amongother things, they questioned whether Mr Clinton had the authority to reinstate direct flights to Cuba, for instance, that had been leg-



Natalie Ungvari after testifying on Thursday about Monica Lewinsky's alleged affair with Bill Clinton Photograph: AP Photo/Dennis Cook

Clinton holds back from rubbishing accusers

By Mary Dejevsky Washington

AS ALL Washington anticipated yesterday's opening of Primary Colours, the satirical film loosely based on Bill Clinton's pace of the real-life White House drama accelerated with the hurling of more accusations and the release of more documents. Mr Clinton, however, unlike his cinematic counterpart, appeared wary of taking the gloves right off lest he dam-

age his cause. While his defence lawyer in the sexual barassment suit brought by Paula Jones was set to publish papers in support of his argument that the case should be dropped for lack of evidence, the White House was denying anything too sensitive or salocious would he pro-

disclose details of Ms Jones's sexual history - a controversial Mr Clinton's standing with women's groups.

The papers to be made pubcampaign for the presidency, the. lic included transcripts of cross- of the White House to exploit examinations conducted by Mr information at its disposal, may Bennett last year on some of Mr reflect a decisioo to hold back Willey, the former White House can also be traced back to last volunteer who claimed on tele- year, when Mr Bennett caused vision last Sunday that Mr Clinton had kissed and groped her. against her will. Mr Bennett says the women's answers cast doubt

on the truth of their allegations. By making the material public, at the same time as submitting it to the judge, Mr Bennett clearly hoped to counter the impact on public opinion of Ms Willey's television interview and nf the 700 pages of documents made public a week before by duced. It was denied that the

lawyer, Robert Bennett, would Ms Jones's lawyers. The documents included large sections of Ms Willey's account of her 1993 move that risked undercutting encounter with Mr Clinton and passages from Mr Clinton's

sworn testimony in the case. This reluctance on the part Clinton's accusers, including the most damaging material Ms Jones herself, and Kathleen until it is really needed. But it an outcry from women's groups by saying that if women other than Paula Jones were called to testify about Mr Clintoo's sex life, the private lives of Mr Clinton's accusers would be

> Oo Thursday, Natalie Uogvari, a schoolfriend of Monica Lewinsky, testified to the grand jury investigating the White House sex scandals. She made no commeot afterwards.



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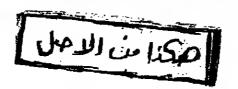
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Trainspotting and the art of Impressionism DIARY

way exthusiast. His wonderful painting of the Normandy express at the Gare Saint-Lazare is familiar to visitors to the National Gallery in Loodoo. It is one of a series of 11 views painted on the platforms tracks, and even inside a si all box, at the station in 1877

Seven of these canvases full of steam and light and movement - have been mar-shalled for the first time in 120 years in an exhibition at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris (which, of course, used to be a railway station itself). The exhibition, which lasts und 17 May and goes oo to washington, is called Manes, fone: La gare Saint-Lazare.

Edouard Maret's railway connections are less wellsionism had a studio on the Rue de Saint-Pétersbourg, overlooking the maze of tracks appainting Le Chemin de Fer. It shows a young form and a little girl with the station in the hackground, postly obscured by a cloud of the man

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into the steam. The answer is olvious to any one who, like me, spent their chidhood lurking about railway sations. The little girl was an early Gallic trainspotter (spmewhat overdressed for the part).



Photograph: Bridgeman Art Library

train a good deal recently, mostly by TGV, but this week to Strasbourg on one of The canwa caused somethe last of the French main lines off into the unknown. This is thing of a scan all when exhibited in 1873. Why should the built fast tracks. In Britain, rail-has more than 20,000 miles of little girl in a book blue dress ways have become a shrunken, have her back udely turned to scruffy and weed-infested afthe artist? Why is she gazing fair. Returning to the great junction at Crewe is like visit
The price is, of course, masmer rail union official. No sudlog at the friend dying of some sive public subsidy. Passeagers den ubange is anticipated. junction at Crewe is like visitwasting disease.

of criss-crossing rails; in the fright. The question of rail redepths of the countryside, smart-looking branch lines set operating railways: a total rivalled only by the US, China

sting disease. and freight customers pay In France, on the old main £3.5bn a year to use the SNCF: lines, nothing seems to have the government gives the railchanged. Every small station ways another £8bn a year. The still has a goods yard; every big last government planned to the flat below. They object to be buying a carpet."

form - ie massive cuts - is theoretically still on the agenda. But the transport minister in the Jospin government is Jean-Claude Gayssot, known to his friends as the "Comrade Minister". He is a Communist, a former railwayman and a for-

Te have, literally, a running battle with the family who live in

station has a satisfying jumble change all that but then took the sound of our children sprinting over the bare parquet floors. They have a fair point but not one they have ever put to us directly. All complaints are directed through the gardienne (concierge), a Bosnian Serb Jehovah's Witness given to wearing cerise sweat-shirts We thought an uneasy truce had been established until the other day, the gardienne approached my wife and said: were wondering when you will

Trench doctors have a fundamental approach to medicine. The cure for almost everything, it seems, comes in the form of a sup-

The other day, my wife took Grace, five months old, to our doctor with a bad cough. He and purple track-suit bottoms, prescribed suppositories but added a lecture, with sketched fagram, on how they should be applied. Contrary to common sense, it appears that the blunt "The people in the flat below end of the suppository should go in first. No wonder the French are hopeless at darts.

Le Pen link has right in chaos

By John Lichfield

THE right side of the French political spectrum was plunged into disarray yesterday. Leaders of the moderate right in five regions defied orders from their national beadquarters and made tactical alliances with the ultra-right and xenophobic National Front to hold on to regional power.

All five, all members of the UDF centre-right grouping, including Charles Millon, the former defence minister, were immediately suspended by the national leadership. At least two other regional leaders of the Right are expected to accept the backing of Jean-Marie Le Pen's party in delayed votes in their regional assemblies on Monday. The head of one of the more right-wing components of the UDF, Alain Madelin, was said to have congratulated one leading rebel on his actions. The worst-possible scenario

- a U-turn by the national leadership of the traditional right. reversing its moral and strategic rejection of deals with the Front - appeared to have been avoided. There was another shaft of light in the moral gloom, A UDF leader in Franche-Comté resigned the regional presidency on a point of principle because the NF regional councillors had voted for him. Overall, however, the Gaullist RPR and the UDF were left in confusion. Although no Gaullist regional barons defied the purp yesterday, at least two are expected to do so on Monday. A former RPR general-secretary, Jean-François Mancel, ejected by the party for demanding deals with the

Front, predicted that the centre-right of French politics would "explode" next week, with elements of the UDF and Gaullists forming n new party and others joining the Front.

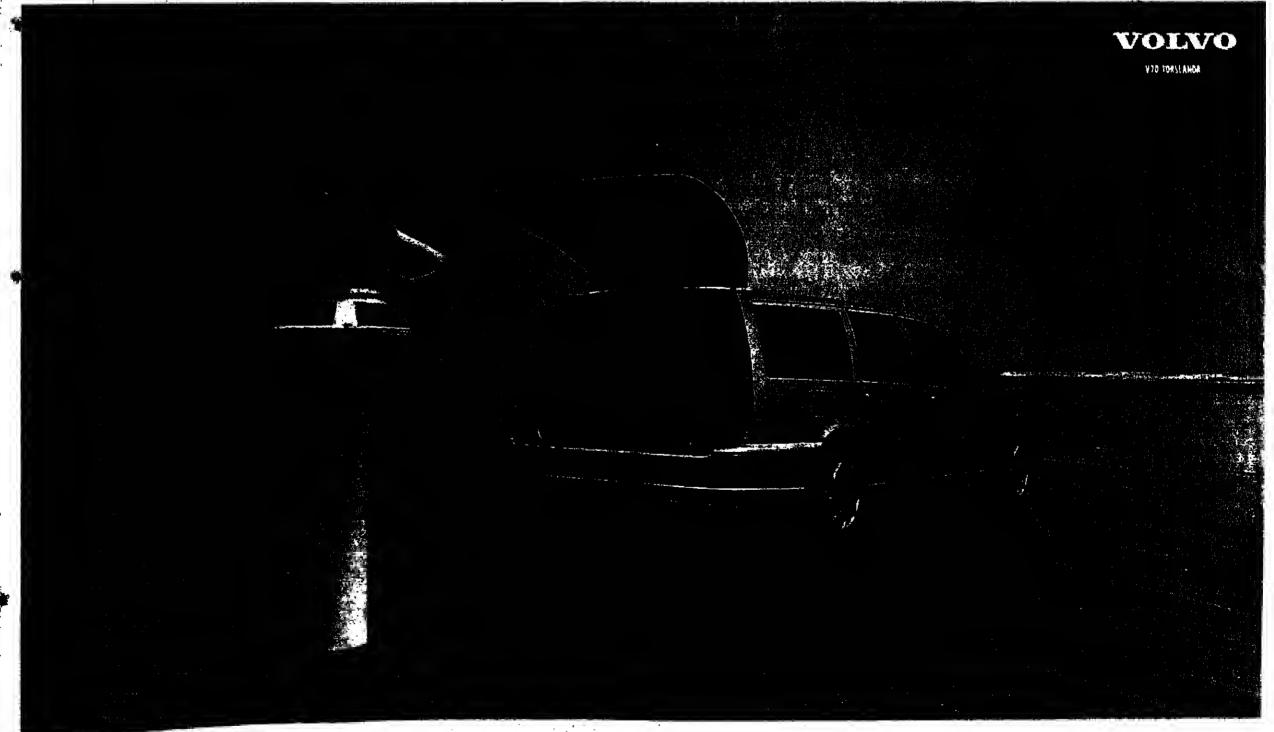
The Socialist former culture minister, Jnck Lang, spoke of a "black day for the Republie ..." He accused the regional politicians who made deals with the Front of "renegiog on promises to the people" and sluming the vile soup offered by the ... neo-fascists".

The crisis on the right follows regional elections last Sonday which produced Confused electoral pattern all over France. The Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin's, left-of-centre coalition topped the poll in 11 out of 21 regions in France. But it won an outright majority in only one.

In at least nine regions, the National Front was left bolding the balance of power. The national leadership of the "traditional", or respectable right, but pledged beforehand to male deals with the Front and to cept minority left-wing regional governments if necessary.

Once the election results came in, local centre-right leaders all over France, desperate to cling on to regional power after their defeat in national elections last year, began to make secret or open deals with the NF. Despite warnings from the centre-right national leadership, and from Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist President of the Republic, there was widespread revolution when regional aspuniblies gathered to chrose their presidents yesterday.

A breaking of the mould of right-wing politics in France is now possible, with dangerous implications for French democracy.



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VOLVO. A CAR YOU EAN BELIEVE IN

Horror hotel has vacancy for a demolition man

By Phil Regues in Moscow

CAN THERE be anniher building no the planet which is both as monstrously ugly and as unhappily located? For 31 years, the Rossiya Hotel has kept intact its reputation as one nf the world's eyesores, a bint on a Moscow landscape that in-

may be on the way out. So monnlithic are the vital statistics of this soulless block of glass and concrete that it for years made the record books.

Cathedral. But that bad name

The Rossiva was built by the Soviets as the biggest hotel on earth, a boast it can no longer uphold. It has 3,071 rooms for 5,000 such endless-seeming lengths that Russians jokingly advise visitors in arrive with a compass.

History has not been kind. A fire in 1977 which killed 42 peo-



Donald Trump for modernisa-

tion. So far that has not mate-

Alexander Kuzmin, has dis-

paragingly described the \$85

(£51) a night hotel (\$50 for Rus-

sians) as a "hostel" - a reflec-

tion on its decline from one of

the USSR's best establishments

highest points, which rise to 12

Plans have been mooted to

into seediness.

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in 1994. Nor did the murder in

January of its director, Yevgeny Tsimbalistov, who was shot in what appeared to be a Mafia contract killing. He was the fourth hotel executive to be murdered in Moscow in 18 months.

Small wonder that new investors are not always clamguests and the corridors are of ouring at the door. But now claims are circulating in the capital about plans for the hotel, which stands only 200 metres from the Kremlin walls.

Just over a year ago, the city ple did not close it. Nor did a announced a scheme to let it to plague of rats and cockroaches the New York property tycoon to the hotel's spokesman, no of the place, should be a doddle.

fewer than 120 proposals of various forms have been made. "These are being examined," he said. Equally cagey was the Moscow Association of Hotels. "This is not a simple

process. There is an afficially adopted concept about the development and reconstruction of the hotel which is signed by the Prime Minister [Viktor Chernomyrdin]. The hotel is supposed to be divided into smaller hotels," explained its spokesman, Anatoly Buligin.
But "nfficial concepts" have

sia. Kommersant newspaper recently reported that the search was on for an investor willing to demolish it and build something more appropriate in its place. The newspaper published a front page photograph which "disappeared" the hotel. The rerefurbish it, divide it into four sulting cityscape was greatly separate hotels, and to lower its improved.

Bringing the place down is storeys, obstructing views to the difficult bit; building somethe Kremlin. In fact, according thing better, given the ugliness



Pride and prejudice: Serbs waving their national flag at a demonstration in Djakovica 50 miles west of Pristina against demands by ethnic Albanians to secede Kosovo province from control by Belgrade

No love lost as Christians battle over cathedral

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Hedge Trimmer Easi-Trim 420 With unique steering wheel action that can

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electronic Ignition,

primer pumps

and dual nylon

BLACK ROBES swishing. thousands of Orthodox priests silently marched in a show of strength through the Transylvanian city of Cluj yesterday, where a week ago Orthodox and Eastern Rite Catholics exchanged fisticuffs in a contested cathedral.

"Are you Orthodox? If so, come with us," an Orthodox priest called out to one of the 1,000 bystanders who had gathered in the centre of the city, 203 miles north-west of the Romanian capital, Bucharest.

The Orthodox priests had come from all over Transylvania for the silent march. Many of them did not make the sign of the cross in front of the cathedral, which one week ago was handed back to Eastern Rite Catholics after 50 years.

Orthodox faithful customarily cross themselves in front

of any Christian church. Eastern Rite Catholics who held a service yesterday shut the cathedral's front doors and said they would not allow any Orthodox inside. They used loud-

The tension between the two religious communities dates back to the end of the Second World War, when Romanian Communists suppressed Romanian Christians who professed loyalty to the Vatican and in some cases handed over their buildings to the Orthodox church hierarchy.

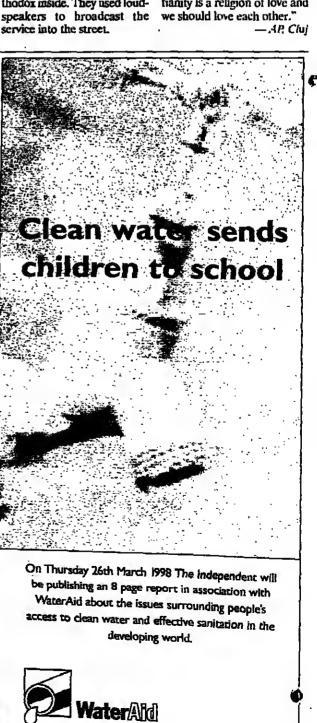
The Catholies claim that the Orthodox priess colluded with Communist authorities.

"You should be carrying Stalin's portrait," on old woman, who said she was an Eastern Rite Catholic, called out to the Orthodax priests.

Last week, Bomanians were shocked by sceres of Orthodox and Eastern Rite Catholics hurling the communion table and other holy objects around

Cluj's 16th-century cathedral. Police vesterday maintained a low-key presence on the

"I don't understand these manifestations," said Arpad Pal, an ethnic Hungarian watching the priests march. "Christianity is a religion of love and



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rialised. Moscow's city architect, a way of being ignored in Rus-

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Annan steps warily into Middle East minefield

FIRST we had the Russians bringing peace to the Middle East in the shape of Victor Possouvaliouk, special envoy to President Boris Yeltsin. UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. Then came the hero of Har Homa, our own Robin Cook, who also supported 425, but noted that the Syrians would like Golan back at the same time as the Israelis left Lebanon. Yesterday, the saviour of Baghdad, the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, turned up to tell us bow much he wanted to see 425 implemented. Within 10 days, it will be the Iranian turn to tell us, in the same marble-corridored foyer of the Beirut foreign ministry, what a jolly good thing 425 is.

Mr Annan - or Mr Kofi as the Lebanese like to call him - is no fool. And while he would like UN resolutions implemented in the Middle East, he knows well that the Syrians are in no mood to see Israel pull out of Lehanoo and thus lose the only military pressure they have on the Israelis: the guerrilla war in the south terday. Indeed, Captain Kofi is not of the country.

Besides, he realises the snakepit of double standards does not permit him b lecture the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyabu in the same way that Bill Clinton likes to threaten Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Israel ignores IJN resolutions and remains America's protégé in the Middle East; Iraq to hear all sides. ignores UN sanctions and gets regularly hiffed for doing so.

Mr Annan has, in fact, so well understood the double standards of the area that be spoke with admiration of Washington's lameotable stewardship of the "peace process". In Jordan, be gave US efforts his "full ("ipport". In Beirut yesterday, while

44

"a number of unforeseen [sic] difficulties", he told us he hoped "that the efforts that the United States is making to push forward the peace process will succeed". Which is odd, since American efforts to dig up the corpse of the Osio agreement appear He told us at the Lehanese foreign to involve little more than mild critministry that Moscow supported icism of Israel's continued settledemands for the Palestinians to suppress "terrorism", and a refused dinner date for Benjamin Netanyahu with President Clinton (a discourtesy Mr Netanyahu extended to Mr Cook

> But Mr Annan is, in reality, treading a very gentle path through the Middle East minefield. He can desire the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425 on Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land - upon which the "peace process" is supposed to be founded - without coodemning Israel for refusing to obey the UN. It was the American-sponsored Oslo agreement that offered the Palestinians a hope of a state - not the UN.

> One thing you can say for Annan is that he knows how to navigate," one of his aides muttered to me amid those marble columns yesgoing to sail his boat into an iceberg. That will be left to Yasser Arafat and Mr Netanyahu and, possibly, Captain Bill Clinton himself. The UN Secretary-General's trip around the Middle East was not a mission with a set of proposals, his men informed us. He wanted to learn, understand,

Tweoty years ago, the Lebanese were demanding that the Israelis obey the UN resolution and withdraw. The Israelis refused. Now the Israelis say they want to witbdraw, but the Lebanese - fearful of Syria's anger if Golan was not returned at the same time - want conditions attached to 425. No wonder Mr Annan wants the acknowledging that it had run into Americans to carry the can.



Reaching out: Aboriginal performer Djalcapurra Munyarryun inside the 'Sea of Hands' display on Bondi Be featuring [20,000 signatures - has travelled Australia as a symbol of support for Aboriginal rights

Indian guru digs deep to find meaning of life and death

FIVE smouldering Bristol cigarettes outside a mound plastered with cement, mark the performed an equally arresting spot where Vilji Bhagat breathed his last.

On 3 March, on the boundary between two remote villages in Gujarat, north-west India, Mr Bhagat climbed down into the hole he and his followers had dug here and he sat in meditation with a coconut balanced on his head. Then his wife and disciples shovelled earth on him until he was buried alive.

Overnight the spot became place of pilgrimage: green flags honouring Mr Bhagat's padreds of people made the trek by hus and autorickshaw to worship at the grave.

But there were dissenters. A local scientific association, the Saurashtra Science Committee, said the incident was "deplorable, since it encourages superstition in a scientific age". On Wednesday, some 80 volunteers from this and other rationalist groups turned up at the grave, planning to dig up the body. They wanted, they said, to persuade Mr Bhagat's admirers that his suicide had been a freak and an irresponsible action" to which no religious significance should be ascribed.

There were 2,000 believers at the scene, however, who were in no mood to chop logic, and an ugly clash was averted only when police waded in with bamboo staves.

This corner of India has something of a name for memorable suicides. It was in neighbouring Rajasthan 11 years ago that a woman called Roop Kanwar shocked the oation by committing suttee, allowing herself to be burned alive oo her busband's funeral pyre. Suttee has long been illegal, but altbough

31 other people were charged with criminal offences, all were acquitted after a 10-year delay.

Three years ago, another man in Gujarat is said to have act, "cutting off his head", according to The Pioneer, "and offering it to the gods".

· An air of mystery surrounds the subject of the latest samudhi, as such religiously motivatacts of terminal self-effacement are called. He arrived in Deri Pipaliya five years ago, people say. In his nothing but carry out "pujas" religious ceremonies - acquiring a circle of devotees as well as a wife and two sons. He was only 37 at the time of his death.

Police, possibly goaded by the rationalists, have begun proceedings against Mr Bhagat's widow, Vimlaben, and five followers, for aiding and abetting suicide. Mrs Bhagat reacted angrily. "Why are they doing this to us?" she told the Indian Express. "We didn't do anything. It was his wish and the whole village accompanied him oo his last journey.

We were there when it all happened - myself, our two sons. There were nearly 300 others." She had learned of her husband's death-wish ocarly three years ago. "He knew when he had to die. He used to say he would oot live on this earth a moment longer than had been divinely ordained. 'I will know the time when I will be asked to leave this earthly vehicle," be would say. On his last journey, people were singing. They bad come io lorries, on foot. We don't have any sadoess or guilt in our bearts. We are bappy."

Theo she lit five more Bristols (the incense of choice in these parts) and sprayed the mound with room freshener. "Only Bristols and the most expensive perfume are good



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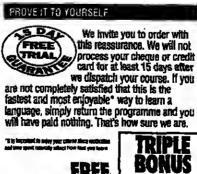
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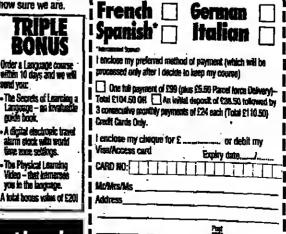
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Afgrange De Book Market

Newcastle's bonnie lad has fallen from grace. And things might get worse for Freddy, say lan Burrell and Tim Laxton

herd, clap your hands," came the wave of venora reverberating around the stands at Newcastle United's St James's Park on Wednesday night. For the object of this derision, the new battleery of the Toon Army was the stuff of nightmares.

Ever since he was a lad, when he had stood amid the swaying mass of the Gallowgate end, cheering on his black and white-shirted idols, the Geordie team meant everything to Shepherd. Now, as the club chairman, he has his name on the best seat in the ground. On Wednesday, he had chosen to leave it empty.

Three days earlier, a tabloid newspaper had reported that Mr Shepherd and his vicechairman Doug Hall, had luridly boasted to an undercover reporter of their sexual exploits with prostitutes in hrothels around the world, and abused the club's followers, They also allegedly described Newcastle women as "dogs", insulted the club's star players and mocked the fans who paid £50 for replica shirts which they claimed cost £5 to make.

By Wednesday, after using a public relations firm to issue a meck apology to his family and the people of the North-East, he went into hiding.

But Freddy Shepherd is not a natural recluse. Inquiries by

"IF YOU hate Freddy Shep- The Independent have revealed that the man from Newcastle's impoverished East End has acquired an astonishing network of influendal friends and allies in national and local government. Just how influential was made apparent when Freddy and his hrother Bruce hosted a New Labour fund-raising evening, hosted by Tony Blair, at Mitford Hall. The ancient Northumberland seat of the Mitford family - immortalised in Jessica's Hons and Rebels - had been acquired by the two Shepherd brothers for £2.5m in 1992 and they both have homes there.

> On that particular night in 1996, the great and the good were out in force. As well as Blair, there was John Prescott and Nick Brown, the Labour Chief Whip, who is considered a Shepherd family friend. Their company, Shepherd Offshore, which had given money to the Tories in 1993, made a £1,000 donation to Labour. The brothers have also allowed government ministers visiting the North-East to use their company helicopter.

Another rich man's plaything which Freddy enjoys is his boat. The current president of the Newcastle Yacht Club, he shares ownership of a luxury motorcruiser, called Apollon, with Sir John Hall, his great friend and mentor. When Sir John, who has dominated sport-



North-East in recent years like no other, stepped down from Newcastle United - passing his 57 per cent shareholding to his son Doug - he allowed Mr Shepherd to succeed him as

chairman last December. By last week the fans were demanding his head, Newcastle supporter Sir Jeremy Beecham, former leader of the city council and now chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, was at Wednesday night's match. They have said things which really make their position untenable," he said.

Last night Freddy Shepherd was holding on to his position by his fingernails. It's a long way back down to where he came from. He grew up amid the back-to-backs and outdoor toilets of post-war Albion Row in ine and business life in the rundown Byker. Freddy's father

William was a rag and bone man, In the 1950s, Charles Shepherd took his family to Australia but soon returned to Byker, where his boys. Freddy and Bruce, joined his firm. They did good business delivering equip-

But their real boom period

shiphuilding industry, when small circle of businessmen

came vacant. "The Shepherds the lives of 750,000 people.

was in the dark years of the

swathes of riverside land be-

Charles set up a one-wagon were masters in getting hold of hanlage business, and his uncle the derelict sites and the government regeneration grant that often went with it," said

one Newcastle businessman. By 1991, Freddy Shepherd had become a good friend of Sir John Hall, the new Newcastle United chairman, who made

dy Shepherd's position was as-

sured in Newcastle society - a

and politicisms who dominate

Meanwhile, his business links with the Hall family grew. They purchased a property close to St James's Park for £88,358 in 1993 and sold it to the football club in 1995 for £203,000.

Shepherd Offshore now employs 85 people and has diversified into warehousing, property

'The Shepherds were masters in getting hold of the derelict

sites and the government grants that often went with them' ment for the growing offshore him a club director. As the club investment, farming and the oil industry, and renamed the came within an ace of winning provision of conference facilities. family firm Shepherd Offshore. the Premiership in 1996, Fred-It also has a stake in Newcastle's

ketball clubs, which are con-

last four years, the brothers have

neration alone. Their shareholding in Newcastle United is worth just over £10m.

But as the clamour for Freddy Shepherd's head grows louder, inquiries by The Independent have revealed that his business affairs could be about to make him even more enemies.

The regeneration of Freddy Shepherd's native East End depends very largely on the success of a £55m project based on reviving shopping along the old Shields Road in Byker.

In December 1995, the council-backed plan - based around the building of a new food superstore - successfully bid for £24m of government regeneration grants. But within nugby union, ice hockey and bastwo months, the Shepherd brothers announced plans for a trolled by the Halls. During the rival 82,000-so ft store, a mile away on an industrial site at .. made £6m in directors' remu-Walkergate. The Shields Road They will not be forgiven."

The main men: Freddy Shepherd (right) and. Douglas Hall toast their team before Newcastle's Uefa Cup tie with Monaco last year Photograph: North News

developers were aghast and the issue split the ruling Labour group on the city council with a powerful lobby emerging in favour of the Shepherds.

In November 1996, council planners realised that part of the key site for their Shields Road superstore was to be sold at auction. They recommended a £100,000 council purchase. But finance sub-committee chairman Colin Gray declined to convene a meeting. At the auction, Shepherd Offshore was the only bidder, snapping up the site for a bargain £63,000. The uproar that followed provoked an internal investigation at the city council which concluded that the decision on whether to hold the meeting had been at Councillor Gray's discretion.

But since then, Shepherd Offshore has again been able to thwart council officials in huying up a key city site. Heaton House, a huge warehouse on the edge of the Shields Road project, was a potential blight on the scheme and planners recommended £65,000 he spent on it.

Two weeks later, before the councillors had got around to approving the buy, the Shepherds clinched a deal with the owners. Allied Irish Bank. It meant that the success of the £5.5m East End regeneration scheme is at the mercy of the Shepherds.

Stefan Cross, a lawyer and Labour councillor who chairs the Strategy Delivery Committee, is concerned. "If the events relating to these purchases undermine the East End regeneration strategy by preventing us or delaying us from getting the major supermarket development it would be potentially disastrous for the East End of the city," he said.

When he became Newcastle chairman, Freddy Shepherd said: "To be chairman is a great honour for someone who comes from the East End of the city and stood on the Gallowgate End."

He now risks letting down the people of the East End-as well as Newcastle United. As Kevin Miles of the Newcastle Independent Supporters Association puts it: They have brought shame on the club, on the city

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'It took two seconds to reject my application'

One of Tony Blair's political mentors has landed a £30,000 job in an NHS trust. With no such connections, Jean Shackleton was not so lucky

THE whole way appointments To get thus far, I had filled are made to NHS boards is a in a large form, sent a CV and mystery to me. I have years of troubled two rather highly experience working at a very senior level in social services and voluntary organisations, but it took an official just two seconds to reject my latest application to join a health trust.

Tory health spokesman John Maples recently accused the Government of manipulating appointments to NHS boards. A spokesman for Health Secretary Frank Dobson replied: "This is not and has never been intended to be a politically motivated exercise to replace Tory deadheads with Labour deadheads." Now Paul Trippett, who runs the Labour club in the Prime Minister's constituency, has landed a £30,000-a-year

chairmanship of an NHS Trust An advertisement appeared in a national newspaper in 1996 seeking Chairmen and Non-Executive Directors of Special Health Authorities and NHS Trusts. No formal qualifications were needed, but the skills required were formidable.

My application was approved and I was placed on a "database" at Milton Keynes. Then, I began to get that unwanted feeling. I was told in a letter dated 30 July, 1996: "When a vacancy arises, the database is searched for suitable applicants. Shortlisting is undertaken locally ... a Regional Assessment Panel. The chairman will decide who to propose for appointment from [this] shortlist... The appointment is made ments this year for Chairmen

placed people for references.

My next letter was dated 31 January 1997. The Nolan inquiry and the substantial size of the database were quoted as the reason for keeping on the database only those people who "have been assessed as appointable by the Regional Panel". I was off the list. But I was advised that advertisements would soon be appearing locally. They did and I phoned three local trusts for application forms, each of which had to be returned to its local trust - no mention of Milton Keynes.

In February 1997 I filled in three large questionnaires, referees again. Two of the Trusts found my expertise not suitable to the balance of interest they were seeking for their boards. The third did not replay. When I phoned, they said they had not received an application from me mentary questionnaire and had and had sent their shortlist to the Secretary of State.

One of the Trusts asked if I would help in a voluntary capacity as an Associate Manager reviewing legal status of patients sectioned under the Mental Health Act. I was and am delighted to do so. However, after one year I had been interviewed once, had two training sessions with a third planned, and have attended one review Of two patients.

There were more advertise-



Jean Shackleton: Lost in paperwork

In February 1998, I responded to three local advertisements. All three applications went to the same woman in the NHS Executive at Milton Keynes.

The closing date was 16 February. Two days later the rejection for my application was posted. I phoned and discovered that although the blurb from each trust was different, I need attached CVs and troubled my only have filled in one application. The woman at Milton Keynes admitted there was no way of my knowing this. The rejection came so swiftly because an officer had skimmed down a line of boxes on the suppletaken out any application where the "community work" box had not been ticked.

Frank Dobson's message about the appointments that accompanied the application forms was: "We are looking for people to be members of local NHS boards who live in the area, who have a strong comhave the time and ability to contribute to its success. We are particularly keen to recruit people who are users or carers as

The application, however, doesn't state the power of that little box. Yet, I had written underneath it of the associate managership and elsewhere of the community experience one has as a Director of Social Services. Why didn't I tick that box? Sheer modesty, after ticking

every other high-powered item. My complaint about an administrative officer taking two seconds to put me on the scrapheap means my application has been referred to an independent assessor. But the unwanted feeling is back. Every sentence from Milton Keynes is peppered with despair about the number of applications and the complicated procedures that I am unlikely to surmount.

My experience on joint planning between local authorities and health authorities seems to count for nothing, as does having been a corporate manager of a local authority and having helped voluntary organisations mitment to the NHS and who to get their resources up and running.

Meanwhile, I am lost in paperwork, while some spiritual body who alternately demaby the Secretary of State, who and Non-Executive Directors to our boards as well as those with Milton Keynes, picks up the goal posts and runs like hell.



BRAUGHI

'Getting to grips with Leo

Suzanne Moore finds the presence of Leonardo DiCaprio, Hollwood's latest heartthrob, in London has set female (and some male) pulses racing

SOMETIMES people just don't get IT. Now you could say that this kind of allure Even when IT is staring them in the face. is nothing new or you could accept the fact न्ह्र I got IT a while ago when one of my daughter's friends lost the picture of HIM that she sleeps with every night around at my house. A major panic ensued for, of course, she could not live without the sacred image. Two days ago, several young number 28 in Bliss, a teen mag's King of girls of my acquaintance were among those screaming their hearts out in Leicester Square for he is here, walking amongst us mere mortals and he is the 'Sun King' Leonardo DiCaprio.

The main ment Fredly
She phord (right) and
Douglas Hall toast their

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Those who have had any recent contact with adolescent girls will not regard "Leo sickness" as anything new. It has been building for the last couple of years yet somehow it has caught the British press by surprise. As always, the reactions of young women have been seen as out of control, hysterical and nothing more than a pass-

He has been anointed, not by the movers and shakers, but by the movie-going public

...........

stand in a way that grown men never do.

Over the past few days I have had some interesting conversations with men who have described Leonardo as little more than "a foetus", "a terribly mannered actor". "not worth thinking about" or as Jonathan Margolis put it in The Mail "What is remotely appealing about this wimpish 23 year old boy?". The sub-text to all this is that modern women are actually intimidated by real men - I take this to mean men who are fat, bald and boring - and now, maddeningly, prefer babies.

The secret of DiCaprio's appeal is obviously to do with his youth, but it is also to do with his sexuality which, rather than being non-existent, is far more androgynous and nothreatening than that of many teen idols. He is pale, skinny, haunted looking and, in the new film The Man in the Iron Mask, a great romp of a movie, decidedly

that it is a thoroughly Nineties version of masculinity that both references and trumps the old romantic leads who tended to appeal to heterosexual male vanity.

While last year DiCaprio ranked at only Crumpet Poll, this year he is absolutely number one. This is down not simply to the mega-success of Titanic but also, as they cutely call it, his role in 'Shaky's Romeo

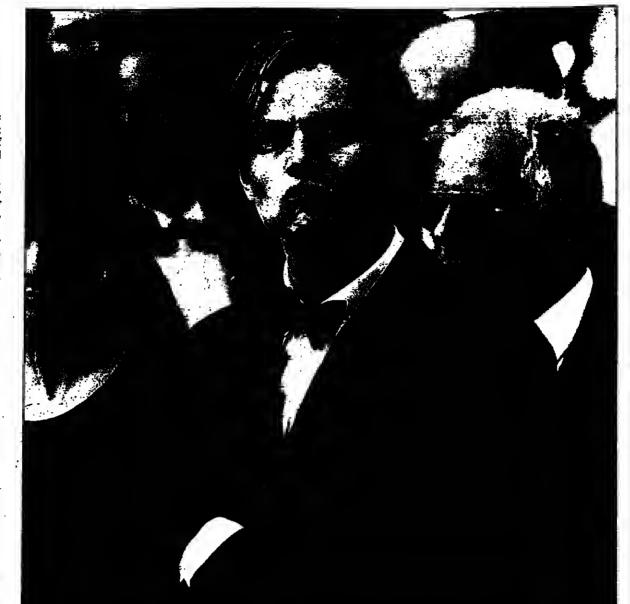
What seems to have passed so many critics by is that apart from Romeo and Julies being a tale of doomed teenage love, it is, above all, a story of defiant teenage re-

DiCaprio is a man of his time, the son of Sixties radicals. Like Winona Ryder and the Phoenix boys, his parents were hippies, his best friend Abbie Hoffman's son, America. This allows him to be a huge commercial success, but maintain a slightly embarrassed public stance about the whole Hollywood machinery. Yet, of course, no one could have managed his off-screen publicity more brilliantly than DiCaprio has.

So we can read that DiCaprio doesn't date since his heart was broken by model Kristin Zang, that he is lonely and has no one to take to the Oscars. Besides he doesn't want to go anyway in case he overshadows those he respects. We can read that ing fad. But as usual the little girls under- he is actually dating Naomi Campbell or various other supermodels. We have Kate Winslet telling us that working with sex-god Leonardo was amazing because they really looked after each other and kissing him was like kissing her brother. To which we can only ask how does she know? We have the talk of his platonic relationship with Sharon Stone when he was nineteen and making The Quick and the Dead and though Sharon poured out her heart to him she didn't want to do a sex scene with him because of the age difference.

This combination of gentleness, ability to form good friendships with women and yet never to have a permanent girlfriend is the perfect way to get a young girl's horrible or scary. He has a calming face." heart for it implies a sexual passivity in the midst of a sexually aggressive culture.

What you hear over and over again, the gay press this week is full of promises when you talk to girls about him is their of "Leonardo naked". fantasy that he is just extremely kind and Efferminate with long hair and frock coats. caring and nice. Sexy, but unthreatening him gorgeous if he were gay, but 'no of-



sexy. As Amelia "aimost 12" tells me: fence to gay people. I just know he isn't "I liked him before I got to secondary because he doesn't talk in a high-pitched school, but when I got there everyone likes In The Man in the Iron Mask in which him. He is so gorgeous and could never be DiCaprio is also popular among some gay

be plays Louis XIV and his twin brother, Philippe, we get, much to our delight, both good Leonardo and bad Leonardo. He is up against four actors, each one with their own brand of mature sex appeal: Gabriel Byrne, smoulderingly romantic, Jeremy Irons, vulnerably cerebral, Gerard De-

pardieu, the farting, belching epitome of rough trade and Jon Malkovich, as fantastically bored and malevolent as ever. Yet it is DiCaprio's freshness that outshines the fading charms of these old musketeers.

For DiCaprio has what every star must dream of. He has been anointed, not by the movers and shakers of Hollywood, but by the movie-going public themselves.

For our daughters to pine for a gentle man, even though this is a fantasy, strikes

Main attraction: Leonardo, pictured at Cannes, was catapulted to stardom in What's Eating Gibert Grope (top) and has consolidated it in his latest epic The Man in the Iron Mask (below)





me as more than a re-run of an enduring and old-fashioned myth of masculinity. It is something thoroughly modern and part of the on-going negotiations between the genders about what women want and how men are going to have to accommodate those changes.

You may mock, but I put it to you that yet again the little girls have got it right and, now able to command \$20 million a movie, young Mr DiCapno certainly has.

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men who are sick of the macho look and

According to Amelia she would still find

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Not so Wilde about the boys

David Hare has miscast The Judas Kiss' and misjudged the passions of Oscar Wilde, writes Paul Taylor

TOM HOLLANDER currently has one of the more enviable jobs in showbusiness, or so the vast majority of women - and not a few men - might assume. In The Judas Kiss, the new David Hare play about Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas, he's no the receiving end of some passionate osculation from the Oscar of the Hollywood-wowing hunk, Liam Neeson. Yet you suffer for both actors in what turns out to be a hizarrely miscast and deeply disappointing evening.

This dun make a ludicrous spectacle: the six-foot four inch Neeson, who looks as though he could tear a telephone directory in half with his bare hands, and Hollander here doing his over-familiar Dinky-toy petulant toddler routine - who would need to stand on several volumes of the telephone directory to get mouth-to-mouth with his strapping lover. As the career of Alan Ladd so eminently proved, one advantage of Neeson's more regular medium, the movies, is that you can disguise inequalities of height by furtive use of ditches and boxes. But in the perpetual longshot of theatre, there's not so much room for cover up. Hollander is so inhuman and mechanical as Bosie that the pair keep reminding you of a ventriloquist and his dummy. Equip this Lord Alfred with a monocle and you'd have what looks like the late 19th century's answer to Ray Allen and Lord Charles: "Say bottle of absinthe, Bosiel" "Gottle of agsinthe, gottle of agsinthe.," It would, of course, have to be something classier than the

proverbial beer. Neeson, by contrast, could run masterelasses in stage presence. As anyone who saw his performance as the powerful sexy stoker in the New York transfer of Anna Christie tention in a theatre comes as naturally to him as commanding the best table in cerelectricity he generated with his future partner, Natasha Richardson, made the relanunship between, say. William Hurt and Kathleen Turner in

contrast, fails utterly to warm this Almeida production transplanted to the prosceniumzero and climbs into negative figures. Which is a bit of a handicap, given that Hare's theme - continuing a preoccupation evident in his last two plays, Skylight and Amy's View ill) of consuming love. The drama is shaped on a structure of two acts, whose points of conbrought out with intelligence and delicate lyricism in Richard Eyre's production.

the tragically temporary cocoon of the room Wilde took refuge in at the Cadogan Hotel in the tense hours between the collapse of his libel case against Bosie's father, the Marquess of Queensbury, and his own arrest. Here, with virtually nothing new to add to our perception of the case, Hare addresses the big question of why Wilde did not take the opportunity (allowed him by the authorities) to flee to the Continent.

all-too-shiftily willing to do a bunk from a life of squalid, penurious exile in Naples with his disgraced lover and assorted young fishermen ("We can't live on cock," one of the more concise and euphonius of the lines Hare has put in Wilde's mouth), Here, Bosie, in a more than mildly self-serving fit of principle, picks at the ways a strange candidate for gay iconhood - avoided de- joh in the Cadogan Hotel in both halves of the evening, claring the whole truth about episode of showing you a man rather overdoes the headtain restaurants must. The their love when he was in the under appalling strain at thrown-back, I'm-addressing-

The chemistry hetween

Body Heat look almost stand-Neeson and Hollander, by arch Playhouse. It begins at is the power (for good and trast and comparison are Both halves speculate about a moment in Wilde's life of which little is known. The first act admits us to

The second act shows Bosic

Neeson does a creditable



dock. At the same time, consistency being something you leave to the hoi polloi, Bosie is seen repositioning himself as a born-again heterosexual, wriggling out of a relationship that cost Wilde everything (not least his ability to write), and implying that a pay-off from Mummy of £500 should just about settle the bill. In both acts, true friendship is represented by Robert Ross who, in real life, was far more complex, admirable and substantial than the anguished, decent figure poor Peter Capaldi

required to flesh out here.

tempting nonetheless to hehave with grace, nonchalant good humour, and stoic indifference to his foreseen fate. Ordering a meal with an epicure's attention to the huxuries of detail. Hare's Wilde wants to distend and savour this last moment of the otherside of the delicate monied membrane that separates him from the lynch mob. The nobleness of life is to accede to the narrative one has written for oneself. We see Wilde the generous tipper, on the verge of an existence where he ey for such gestures. Neeson,

posterity pose, but he gives excellent glimpses of the shredded nerves under the glittering highwire act. The play itself, though, is very poor. The air it has of saying something movie helped you see that, be-

Neeson and Hollander make a ludicrous spectacle... the pair remind you of a ventriloguist and his dummy

much more penetration and a

real ear for Wildian wit, in Ter-

ry Eagleton's Saint Oscar. Jude

Law's brilliant performance as

Bosic in the Stephen Fry

Wilde goes further and hints that the doting Oscar was not a valuable alternative to the father, but his damaging continuation in reverse. Here, thanks to the script

and Hollander's performance. which is like watching a petulant baby throwing food from its highchair, Bosie is, in the main, a monster of apopletic pettishness and aggrieved calculation. The essence of Wilde was his generosity of spirit, not Duchess of Windsor. What a a virtue David Hare is undu-ly burdened with. The scene between Wilde and A E Hous- vellously unpinched or pointman in Tom Stoppard's The In-Wilde's downfall, England was his hating, hateful father, he vention of Love speaks far symbolically expelling an Irish too was a tragic figure. more eloquently about what is proves to be a bore: how one socialist, is quite unearned. It's Thomas Kilroy's recent play simultaneously noble, tragic wishes there could be a Wilde all been done before, with The Secret Fall of Constance and paradoxical about unde- play about Hare.

luded infatuation than does this entire play where it's all boiled neatly down to Bosie standing for the kind of man whose governing principle is power and Wilde for the kind of man who is governed by

43dy Street Chi

Hare and Wilde are a creative mismatch. Consider how differently each of them would treat the oddly comparable situation of the exiled Duke and wonderful subject that would have been for Wilde's marscoring genius.

A Hare play about Wilde

PUBLISHING a book on tape and on radio but not in print may look gimmicky. But in the case of Tom Wolfe's Ambush ut Fort Brugg - now available on the BBC Radio Collection, as well as being the current Late Book on Radio 4 – it seems like a rather good idea. Since its message is all about the way that television distorts modern society, it makes sense to try and put the message across to an audience less likely to sit down and read. And anyway. Wolfe's prose is perfect radio material - so lucid, hland and effortless that you can carry on with useful jobs like checking your hank statements and tackling those stubborn stains on the crockery without losing the thread.

WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

The storyline is bulimic, so stuffed with issues that you expect it be violently sick as soon as it can sneak out to the lavatory: it revolves around a current affairs television programme that "ambusbes" people into making damaging admissions in front of hidden cameras. In this case, the producers are trying to wangle a confession out of three redneck soldiers who have beaten to death a gay colleague.

As rather hurriedly read by Frank Muller, it has what in an ordinary book

you might call page-turning quality you are curious to know how it will turn out. What spoils it is the way Wolfe substitutes hackground research and lengthily detailed exposition of action for character and emotional engagement. The only character given any inner life at all is a paunchy, balding television producer who broods constantly on the fact that more attractive colleagues get all the fame and money. This is presumably meant as a comment on the society is obsessed with

appearances; but it seems simplistic and predictable compared with the variety and subtlety of views expressed in The Face (Radio 4, Wednesday).

In this clever, occasionally cerie feature, Peter White went around asking various people (an artist, a mortician, a policeman, a plastic surgeon) about the relationship between face and character - the question gaining extra poignancy from the fact that White himself is blind. His starting point was the remark that we all get the face we de-

serve (White thought it was either Auden or Coco Chanel; in fact, it was the last entry George Orwell made in his notebooks before he died).

What gave the programme its strange, wistful quality was the way it turned life on its head: the first voice we heard was a mortician, explaining that you can read nothing, not intelligence, education, experience, into the face of a corpse. It finished at the other end of life, with babies who looked like old men, the experience of the ages engraved in their wrinkles. Surfaces, it seemed to argue, don't just mislead, they tell you cold-blooded and deliberate lies; and oddly, that came as a comforting thought.

Express yourself: Attractive as dance but unreadable as

jumps and shouts. It was a masterly bit of audience manipulation, but it seemed strange that the closest engagement with the audience should take place after the show was over. We Set Out Early... Visibility Was Poor, final performance tonight,

Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street,

WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

MR BEAN, rubbery-limbed and accident prone, is a lovable sort of chap. He also says very little. Perhaps that comes from studying the outbursts of his alter ego, Rowan Atkinson. The latter has taken a snipe at Bafta in advance of next month's awards, because the British Academy had failed to nominate the Bean film. And as with all notable comedians, it's the way he tells 'em.

"I have become accustomed

to Mr Bean's lack of appeal to the kind of people who work in television and the media," his quote ran, "and so I am a little more philosophical about our latest failures. The entertainment industry is littered with characters and personalities who have enjoyed broad popular appeal and a regular critical mauling in equal measure."Actually I can think of other examples. There were The Two Ronnies. for example, huge in the ratings but mercilessly mocked some years ago in sketches on Not The Nine O'Clock News (starring Rowan Atkinson). There was also Benny Hill, a pariah to critics in the years before his death and publicly attacked by Ben Elton, co-writer on Rowan Atkinson's Blackadder.

Rowan Atkinson's argument, namely that there should be a correlation between popular appeal and critical acclaim, does not stand up. If it were the case then there would never be a need for judging panels. The top three at the box office would simply win the top three prizes. It can be hard for those involved to accept that, just as it can be hard for them to accept that they may have now joined the comedy establishment that they once picked up awards for pillorying.

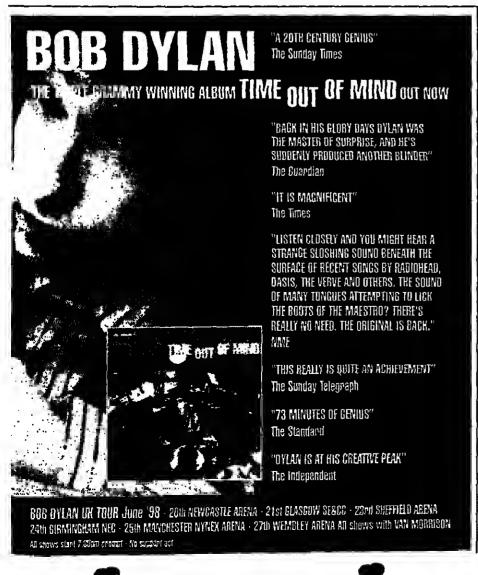
IN THE whole HarperCollins affair, the publisher's best-sell-

been unusually silent. No. longer. He explained to me in his penthouse flat that he had felt in a difficult position, being an old friend of the two opposing protaganists - UK chairman Eddie Bell and his own editor, whistleblower Stuart Proffitt. But he did manage to find words, none too friendly, for his fellow authors threatening to leave the tarnished publishers. You don't walk out on old friends just to get a hit of praise

and publicity. So could I take it that Lord Archer's agent would not be renegoriating his own threebook deal? "I don't have an agent any more," he grinned. glancing up at the Monet on the wall. "When you earn what I do, 15 per cent comes to rather a

NOEL COWARD, I suspect, might have taken quite a fancy to Blur's Damon Albarn, But the two are never to be linked. not even on disc. Albarn collaborated with Michael Nvman on a version of Coward's London Pride for a new tribute album. But executive producer Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys has rejected it. Apparently the pair had written an experimental electronic track. "It bears no resemblance to the original," says a startled spokeswoman. And thus The Master's chance of joining Cool Britannia disappears.

THE quarterly journal of the National Art Collections Fund places the obituaries column for leading figures in the art world next to the column on people moving jobs. So next to the heading Obituary is the heading "Going, Going, Gone". I can re assure Lord Gowne's friends that though his name appeared under the black letters GOING, he may be leaving the Arts Couning author, Jeffrey Archer, has cil but remains in robust health.



Thinking on your feet doesn't always work

Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Peacock Theatre BILL T JONES is a very fluent speaker - but not necessarily intelligible. His tatest work involves far less text than many of his earlier pieces but it still has a programme note.

The leaflet accompanying Bill T Jones' We Set Out Early ... Visibility Was Poor (cryptic enough in itself, surely) tells us: "One of the work's goals is to invent a strategy whereby the dilemma of memory confronts our need for continuity." No-one imagines dance should be about anything but if the choreographer says it is, we tend to demand some correlation between the artist's intention and what hap-

pens on stage. Jones' plan to explore human emotion, social change, artistic development via the metaphor of a journey was perhaps unachievable. As dance, it was an attractive, occasionally exquisite response to his chosen music (Stravinsky, Cage and Vasks), but

as philosophy it was unreadable. There were compensations. Jones dancers range in size and shape from the rangy splendour of Germaul Barnes to the

hugely unexpected Alexandra Beller, who is more Beryl Cook than Beryl Grey. The 10 dancers don't look alike or dress alike and they tread the elegant space mapped out by Bjorn G Amelan with steps that seem to speak

two languages simultaneously. During the work's three sections, the dancers make their journey along and around a diagonal path, which runs across the stage. The Stravinsky segment was composed of conventional groups and solos, but by the third section, the ideas and relationships had fragmented.

A woman skips to greet her lover, then rewinds to the wings repeatedly, like a recurring dream. Periodically, a member of the ensemble was picked out in a flickering beam. Why?

Then came The Pod. Made of rumpled cream silk and shaped like a vast, luminous woodlouse, this strange chrysalis progressed slowly across the backcloth. Suddenly, everyone wore grey. If there is a meaning it didn't appear to be one

that Jones' dance could convey. The curtain calls were led by London WC2 (0171 314 8800). Jones himself, a shamelessly perky sequence of synchronised

صكنا من الاعل

Dunn

IAN DUNN was a pioneer for

lesbian and gay human rights. remaining a central figure in

the battle for homosexual

equality - in Scotland and

In the 1970s he took a lead-

internationally - for 30 years.

ing part in the campaign to end

the total ban on gay sex in Scot-

land (the 1967 law reform ap-

plied only to Eogland and

Wales). With two other gay ac-

tivists, he appealed to the Eu-

ropean Court of Human Rights.

This appeal forced the issue on

to the public agenda, but was al-

lowed to lapse when Robin

Cook successfully ameoded

the Criminal Justice (Scotland)

Act 1980, extending the 1967

reforms north of the border.

Dunn was a co-founder in

1969 of the Scottish Minorities

Group, ooe of Britain's carliest

gay rights organisations. SMG held its inaugural meeting in the

front room of his parents' home

in Glasgow. At the time of his

death, from a heart attack,

Dunn was the convenor of its

successor organisation, Outright

Scotland. His most recent cam-

paign was to amend the current Bill setting out the powers of the

Scottish Parliament, to ensure

that its equal opportunities re-

mit included non-discrimination

based on "sexual orientation

Born into a staunch Scottish

Conservative and Unionist fam-

ily in Glasgow, and educated

at Hillhead High School,

Dunn went on to become first

a meteorologist, and later a

town planner. But he soon re-

belled against his respectable

In 1974, he and Derck Ogg

convened the International Gay

Rights Congress in Edinburgh

- the first post-war conference

of homosexual emancipation

movements from around the

world. This congress led to the

formation of the International

Leshian & Gay Association

and gender identity".

*Arkady Shevchenko

DEFECTIONS are mostly the relative paradise of the he does not rank with Col Oleg possible by both winners and sensational passage from East to West of Arkady Shevchenko, Under Secretary-General at the United Nations for Politidiplomat ever to change sides during the Cold War.

Routine briefings at UN headquarters are rarely exciting, but the one of 11 April 1978 dropped a bombshell. Shevchenko, the spokesman ooted, "has informed the Secretary-General that he is absenting himself from the office and, in this connection, he mentioned differences with his government".

half years earlier that Shevchenko first decided to cast in his lot with the Americans, the climax of a long disaffection with his own country and government. Upon contacting the CIA, however, he learnt to his unpleasant surprise that he was nternational civil servant would have to sing for his supper, and earn sanctuary by spying. Slowly, Moscow's suspicions grew.

Finally, on 31 March 1978, came the cable of which every traitorous Soviet official abroad lived in dread, recalling him immediately for consultations, and "discussion of certain other questions". A couple of days later Shevchenko slipped from his Manhattan flat, climbed into a CIA car and was whisked off to a safe house in Pennsylvania to begin his second life.

His former masters, their fury matched only by their embarrassment, pulled out every stop to get him back. The KGB concocted wrenching letters from his family, and mingled promises of clemency with the most unsubtle of threats if he did not comply. To no avail. As Shevchenko was being debriefed in Washington, he learnt from a press report that his wife Lena had died in Moscow. Officially she had committed suicide. Shevchenko would always suspect she had been murdered by the KGB.

In some ways Arkady Shevchenko was an unlikely candidate to turn his back on his country. Born in Ukraine in 1930, the son of a doctor, he had

Crimea (where his father met Penkovsky, or the KGB station Churchill, Roosevelt and Stallosers, albeit for very different in at Yalia in 1945 while secretly ievsky, or even Igor Gouzenko, reasons. Not so, however, the evaluating the health of the dying US President). Shevchenko enjoyed the best the Soviet 1945 carrying evidence of Mos-Union could offer; a prominent role in the Komsomol youth cal and Security Council Affairs, organisation, and then a place America's nuclear secrets had the highest-ranking Soviet at the Moscow State Institute been passed to Moscow. A natof International Relations, academy of the diplomatic élite.

drei Gromyko, the hugely influential and seemingly eternal Soviet foreign minister. Shevchenko accompanied Nikita Khrushchev on his famous visit to America in 1960, and from 1963 to 1970 served at the So- Soviet policy on every major isviet mission to the UN. After viet mission to the UN. After sue. As a lifelong specialist in three years in Moscow as a arms cootrol, Shevchenko pro-It had been some two and a senior aide to Gromyko, he returned as Under Secretary-General in 1973, aged just 43. By then he was one of the brightest stars of his diplomatic generation, surely destined for a senior ambassadorship, perhaps even deputy foreign minister. As a card-carrying member of the required to remain in place; the nomenklatura, he would - by Soviet standards - want for nothing.

> ali. One reason was material, stemming from a first stunning glimpse of New York on an earlier official mission in 1958: "I had seen photographs," he wrote, "but nothing had prepared me for the impact of the towering city on the horizon" (and, even more pertinently, of the plenty in its shops). From that moment, he was materially hooked on the West. Spiritually, the constraints and dishonesties of the Soviet system, magnified for one who lived abroad, became too much to bear. In retrospect, Shevchenko's defection was inevitable.

Shevchenko abandoned it

Its actual importance has been much debated. Certainly,



the cypher clerk who fled from the Soviet mission in Ottawa in cow's elaborate wartime spy ural self-promoter with no doubt of his own talents, Shevchenko He became a protégé of Anmay moreover have parlayed the information he brought into rather more than it was.

Nevertheless he was a notable catch. During his service as an American "spy" at the UN, he passed over details of vided precious insight into Soviet negotiating strategy for the disarmament talks that stuttered along in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Third, no defector has ever known as much about the high-level workings of the Soviet state, the interplay between the Foreign Ministry, the military and the omnipresent KGB.

By the end of his life, of course, most of this was an irrelevance: The Soviet Union had vanished, and the man whose 1985 autobiography, Breaking With Moscow, had been an international best-seller had been washed up, forgotten, on history's strand. When he died, he was labouring in obscurity on a study of Soviet foreign policy.

cay of his country in its later years, few match Shevchenko. And he understood what lay ahead. In June 1987, when Mikhail Gorbachev was at the height of his powers, Shevchenko told an interviewer that the Soviet leader then beguiling the West was "a transitional figure, hecause he still believes his glasnost is compatible with a Leninist Socialist society. It is not. What will be the political shape of Russia in the next century I cannot judge, but Communism there as a system is doomed." Shevchenko expected collapse might take a generation.

Rupert Comwell Arkady Nikolayevich Shevchenka diblomati born Gorlovka, Ukraine II October 1930; three times married (one son, one daughter); died Beth-

It happened within four years.



The Malcolm Mitchell Trio, cl949: Mitchell, centre, with Teddy Broughton, right, and Johnnie Pearson

Malcolm Mitchell

IN 1948 Malcolm Mitchell became the first British musician to play with Duke Ellington and earn money for doing so. In 1933 the Duke of Windsor had insisted on sitting in on drums But, as a symbol of the dewith the Ellington band when it visited Britain but he didu't get paid for it.

Mitchell's début with Ellington was equally eccentric in its way. Throughout the Forties and into the Fifties the Musicians' Union, then a brutish and, in tandem with the Ministry of Works, all-powerful fraternity, had a rule which banned American musicians from playing in England. In 1948 the Dizzy Gillespie and Spike Jones orchestras had had to cancel projected tours and the only way Ellington was able to work there was as a variety act without his band. He played piano at the London Palladium and music halls in nine other cities with his trumpeter Ray Nance, allowed in as a dancer and thus "showbiz", and his singer Kay Davis (girl singers weren't banned - the union presumably

A trio consisting of Mitchell on guitar, Jack Fallon, bass, and Tony Crombie, drums, completed the group and the American Variety reported that the visit was "an outstanding success". While the union ban was in

place the Mitchell Trio, now with Johnnie Pearson on piano and Teddy Broughton on bass, accompanied other bewildered American "variety artists" including Hoagy Carmichael and the singer Maxine Sullivan when they toured in England. In 1948 Mitchell was called on to play with Stéphane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt for an eightweek tour of Sweden. The trio's first engagement was to open a new night-club in Nice, only to find the premises boarded up and the promoter nowhere to be seen. Virtually penniless, they took to busking, and found a restaurant where they could play for meals and tips. After a few weeks they were heard by an official of the Monte Carlo Casino and played there for the rest of the winter season, even doing a session for Prince

Mitchell was called on again by Ellington in October 1958 for an ATV broadcast. The programme, Atlantic Showboat, was produced by a company owned by the television presenter Hughie Green, and jazz enthusiasts were outraged when he insisted on presenting it himself. The trio reassembled to play at last year's Ellington '97 Conference in Leeds, and Mitchell took part in panel discussions where

he gave a graphic account of his experiences with Ellington. Although dedicated to jazz, Mitchell moved into more commercial music to earn his living, arranging the music for the famous Hovis television commercials. He fought against the tide when he formed a jazzoriented hig band in January 1955. He lost a lot of money and broke the band up in 1956 when his health deteriorated as a result of the strain. He reformed the trio in 1957, working often as accompanist to visiting stars and as a solo act in cabaret. The trio appeared in Royal Variety shows and pro- stepson, one stepdoughter); died

long series of Kenneth Home's Round the Horne radio show.

Mitchell had his own television series on BBC and Southern television and wrote the music for Bob Monkhouse's Golden Silents television series. He eventually formed a group, Mitchell Monkhouse Associates (MMA), for the production of music and jingles, with Monkhouse and Henry Howard, MMA was a pioneer in the prestige business conference field, and as the publicity firm HP:ICM designed the massive figures for the Millennium Dome.

Originally taught by the guitar virtuoso Ivor Mairaints, Mitchell had during the middle Forties played in many respected hands including those led by Felix Mendelssohn, Don Barrigo, Johnny Franks, George Evans and Dick Katz.

Steve Voce

Makalın Mitchell, guitarist, bandleader, composer and vocalist: born London 9 November 1926: three times married (three sons, one daughter, one

(Ilga). Now a global federation of 400 gay rights groups in 60 countries, Ilga has played a pivotal role in getting gay equality recognised as a buman rights issue in international forums such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe. Dunn also played an important role in launching Britain's first national gay newspaper, Gay News. in 1972, and was for many years editor of Gay Scotland magazine. He cofounded the Edinburgh Gay & Lesbian Community Centre in 1974, the oldest centre of its

kind in Britain. lan Dunn was a long-time Labour Party and trade union activist (in Nalgo and Unison). who hoped to win selection as a Labour candidate for the Scottish Parliament. A planning officer with Edinburgh Council until he took early retirement, he was also a keen conservationist, helping save from demolition Mansfield Place Church in Edinburgh, with its magnificent murals by Phoebe

Traquair Wilson. **Peter Tatchell** lan Campbell Dunn, campaigner: born Glasgow I May 1943; died Edinburgh 10 March 1998.

Joseph Darracott

art historian, editor, and museum man, was a great servant seums in Britain, and its Muof art. He left behind him, as a seum of the Year Award (first monument to his loyalty and awarded in 1973), which he devotion, some 50 issues of the continued to serve until his quarterly journal Museum sudden death. News, 20 scholarly monographs, catalogues and the like, and six books.

years as Keeper of Art at the virtually all the last 50 or so is-Imperial War Museum, from 1969. At the same time, he became one of the original band of museum people who helped to found, in 1971, National for articles worth commission- products of war, The First World

support and promotion of mu-

itorship of Museum News, which more strident options. has now gone through over He spent 14 hardworking 100 numbers, and produced sues with very little help from anyone else. He was a wise and patient editor, not given to wild

combined with a perceptive eye for detail, informed his In 1986, he took on the ed-quently a voice of reason among

All that committee will have memories of Darracott which will be concentrated in his quiet, rather shy, almost innocent charm. But his best memorial will be his six books. Two were editorials, and had a good eye useful studies of the art by-

War in cartoons (1990). Two were invaluable additions to the many reports for the judges' body of art criticism, Art Criticommittee of the Museum of cism (1991) and Letters from the Year Award. His was fre- Artists (1997). Perhaps the most outstanding were his study The World of Charles Ricketts (1980). and England's Constable, a sympathetic short life which he wrote for the Folio Society in

Joe Darracott was born in 1934 and was educated at Bradfield College and Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read

JOSEPH DARRACOTT, writer, Heritage, the organisation for ing. The same qualities of in- War in Posters (1974) and A History from 1954. His first post tegrity, sanity, and balance, Cartoon War: the Second World in the museum world, after him that his personal reaction completing his training at the Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie in Paris, was as Keeper of the Rutherston Collection at Manchester City Art Gallery from 1961. In 1964 he took on a post at Hornsey College of Art as Lecturer in Art History: and his five-year tenure of service coincided with the famous sit-in, perhaps the most prominent manifestation in England of the revolutionary spirit which swept universities all over Europe in the late Sixties.

to this kind of turmoil was to become calmer and gentler and more thoughtful. To colleagues who came to know him in later years, his temperament seemed almost saintly. He was loyal, patient, devoled to the causes he served, and, one would have thought, almost impossible to quarrel with.

John Letts

born Aldershot, Hampshire 22 Feb- London 6 March 1998.



Joseph Cobbould Darracott, art nuary 1934; married 1959 Britt-Marie historian and museum curator: Holm (two sons, one daughter); died

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

BURKITT: Beryt Mary, of Darlington, on 18 March 1998, Peacefully after a short illness, uged 73 years. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Woodland Trust. Grantham.

KOMNEMOVIC: Dusan passed away on 19 March at home in Sarajevo sud-denly after a short illness. Dearly loved bushand of Milka, lather of Jelena and busband of Milka, father of Jeiera and Diana, father-in-law of Djordije and grandiather of Danilo and Milka, Fu-neral service to be held at St Mark's Church, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, at 12.15pm on Sunday 22 March, Bur-ial in Bilean, former Yugoslavia, on 21 March 21 March.

Announcements for Gazette BiRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent I Canada Season Canada Wharf dent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London EM 501., telephoned to 0/7-2/3 2011 or faxed to 0/7-2/3 2010, and are charged at 64.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, functions, Forthcoming mar-riages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at (10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENT 3
TODAY: The Dates of Yark, Colonch in Cheel, was the last t whenters! Battahen, the State Carberre Regiment (the Prance of Wales 5) at the Carberre Arms France of Wales of Carberre Arms France of the Carberre of Lington International March at Carberre of Lington International March at Carberre of Lington International March at Carberre of Mandaum, Edenburgh.

Changing of the Guard
TODAN The Hauschold Cavalry Mounted Repinear modes the Oncen's Life Franch at Horse
Guards, Hum. TOPLORROW: The Hauschold
Caratry Mounted Repurent mounts the Queen's
Life franch at Horse Guards, House, Id BattalLife franch at Horse Guards, House, Id Battalton Webb Guards mounts the Queen's Court, at
mothers when II, "John, hand provided by
Rechlesbarn-Palson, II, "John, hand provided by

Birthdays Lord Boston of Faversham QC, for-

mer chairman, TVS Entertainment, 68; Mr Peter Brook, theatrical pro-ducer, 73; Dr Clark Brundin, former President, Templeton College, Ox-President. Templeton College. Oxford, 67; Mr Brian Clough, former football manager, 63; Mrs Ann Clwyd MP, 61; Mr Timothy Dalton, Clwyd MP. 61; Mr Timothy Dalton, actor, 52; Miss Olwen Davies, former Headmistress, St Swithun's School, Winchester, 72; Mr Michael Foreman, author and illustrator. 60; Mrs Llin Golding MP, 65; Mr Roger Hammond, actor. 62; Professor Richard Hare, philosopher, 79; Mr David Heathcoal-Amory MP, 49; Mr Mr Michael Heseltine MP, 65; Mr Antony Hookins, composer and con-Aniony Hopkins, composer and con-ductor, 77; Mr Frederic Horne, former Chief Taxing Master of the Supreme Court, 81, Mr David Kidney MP. 43; Mr Andy Love MP, 49; Miss Ann Mackay, soprano, 42; Sir Peter Main, former chairman of Boots, 73; Mr Ved Mehta, author and jnurnalist. 64; Baroness Nicol, Deputy Speaker in the House of Lords, 75; Lord Oaksey, racing jour-maist and television commentator, 69; Sir John Palmer, former President, Law Society, 78; Sir Brian Shaw. Chairman, Port of London Anthority and of the Automobile Association, 65; Maj-Gen Sir John Swinton. Lord-Lieutenant of Berwickshire, 73; Mr Roger Whittaker, singer and songwriter, 62; Professor Roger Williams, Vice-Chancellor, Reading University, 56.

TOMORROW: Lord Alport, former TOMORROW: Lord Alport, former MP Deputy Speaker. House of Lords, 86; Mr George Benson, singer and jazz guitarist, 55; Mr Desmond Browne MP, 46; Miss Betty Callaway, icc-skating trainer, 70; Miss Sheila Cameron QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 64: Mr Brs. Province of Canterbury, 64; Mr Brian Hanrahan, broadcaster, 49; Mr David Ingman, broadcaster, 49; Mr David Ingman, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 70; The Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emerius of Blackburo, 72; Dr Har-

ry Kay, former Vice-Chancellor, Exry kay, turner vice-dimension, 25; Mr Werner Klemperer, actor, 79; Lord Lloyd-Webber, composer, 50; Mr Peter McEvoy, golfer, 45; Mr Karl Malden, actor, 85; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 75; Mr Andrew Morris, High Commissioner to Tonga, 59; Mr Stephen Nash, ambassador to Georgia, 56; Mr Alan Opie, baritone, 53; Mr Charles Pick, former managing director, Heinemann, 81; Sir Lynden Pindling, former prime minister of the Bahamas, 68: Professor William Ritchie, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 58; Mr Paul Rogers, actur, 81; Mr Paul Schockemohle, show-jumper, 53; Mr William Shat-ner, actor, 67; Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer and lyricist, 68; Professor Sir Colin Spedding, charman, UK Register of Organic Food Standards Register to Igante root status as Board, 73; Lord Stokes, former president, British Leyland, 84; Miss Mary Tamm, actress, 48; Mr Leslie Thomas, author, 67; Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, former Black Rod and Serjeant-at-Arms, House of Lords, 66; Professor Sir Leslie Time berg, chairman. Specialist Training Authority, 64; Miss Famny Waterman, pianist and teacher, 78; Professor David Watson, Director, University of Brighton, 49.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Juhann Sebastian Bach, composer, 1685. Deaths: Sir Michael Scudamore Redgrave, actor, 1985. On this day: the London Planetarium opened, 1958. Today is the Feast Day of St Enda, St Fanchea and St Scrapinn of Thmuis. TOMOR-ROW: Births: Sir Anthony van Dyck, painter, 1599. Deaths: Thomas Carew, poet, 1639. On this day: an attempt was made to abduct Princess Anne in the Mall, London 1973. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Basil of Ancyra, St Benvenuto of Osimo, St Deogratias, St Nicholas Owen, St Nicholas von Fine and St

FAITH & REASON

GodCo is not the answer to a pompous Synod

The Church of England understands its key problem. But it is about to propose the wrong solution, argues Andrew Brown

THE MOST shocking thing about the internal Synod memo leaked to yesterday's Guardian is how clearly it is written: "We are a hostage to fortune on so many issues; our agenda is terminally tedious; we have become a refuge for the pedant, the bureaucrat and the bore." Here at last is a message from the Church which a nation can unite behind. So naturally they kept it confidential.

The author of the memorandum is said to be Pete Broadbent, one of the two men passed over for the job of Bishop of Liverpool - Tony Blair apparently thought they were insufficiently impressive to the outside world. So he has personal reasons for seeing the inadequacies and limitations of the present system; but he does see deeply into them and has had a lot of experience of the Synod's inner workings. In fact there is hardly anyone who would dis-

Church of England's problems are structural rather than personal comes to this paralysis. One is to withdraw outstanding growth prospects. form the fact that many of the people from it. It is a commonplace that the who work for the General Synod are intelligent, experienced and effective at their jobs. There are exceptions, but parish clergy, too, are often people of great gifts, thoughtfully used. So how come all this energy and intelligence winds up in a swamp?

The answer, agreed by everyone, is that the pretensions of the Synod, and indeed of establishment generally, no longer fit the sort of jobs people find themselves doing. The Church of Eogland feels like a heleaguered voluntary society, and not like an essential expression of the nation's spirituality.

The contrast between pretension and performance comes up constantly at the parish level, in all the innumerable decisions that must be made about who to marry, how to baptise, and how to conduct funerals for a largely unbelieving congregation. But nowhere is it more chronie than at the General Sypod, which spends hours, possibly centuries, administering things it no longer believes in. Something has gone dreadfully wrong with an organisation which greets visitors to its web page with the agree with his diagnosis. One of the message, "Every large active body of most telling arguments that some of the people needs a committee."

hishops of the Church of England are by and large among its least impressive clergy; but one reason for this is that fewer than there used to he. The the ones who might be impressive simply don't want the jobs any more. The husiness world can be a place of bebishops who are doing a constructive job seem to have as little as possible to do with the Synod and ruo their dio- drawn from busioess practice are apceses on a fairly flexible ad hoc basis. Yet even if you don't like the models sentially idealistic purpose, the results of decision-making that the Church has, can be absolutely disastrous. Look at the fact remains that some central decisions have to be made and the Synod is a device of unparalleled efficiency for obstructing the process. This did not its financial mess without great instimatter in a more authoritarian society, tutional change. It does have access to

> process funded by long-dead laity. So this leads to the second reaction, to try to modernise the machinery. This has been a consistent concern of Dr Carey since he took office eight years ago and I don't think that even his most persistent critics would fault his identification of the problem. The difficulty comes with the proposed solution: it sometimes looks as if the Synod, un attempt to govern the Church of England oo the model of a parliament, is to he replaced by GodCo, an attempt

> by and large they did it, with the whole

There have been two broad reactions hungry, thrusting corporation with

I don't think there can be any sensible objection to learning from the efficiencies of the outside world. What's worrying is the assumption that modern businesses are efficient. But the wildering incompetence, stupidity and waste; and when models of efficiency plied to organisations which have an esthe BBC. Look at the NHS.

The Church of England has actually made a very good job of sorting out when hishops told clergy what to do and an enormous reservoir of lay compcteoce and goodwill which the Synod should embody. It may need less reform than it believes. It certainly needs less public relations. The memorandum argues for "media-friendly bishops and appropriate spinning of stories" but this is ignorant and silly: press officers can't get away with behaving like Alistair Campbell and Charlie Whelan unless they have access to real power with which to frighten people. The answer to Synod's gap between power and pretension is oot to professionalise its pretension. Rather it is to ensure that it can exerto govern the Church as if it were a lean, cise properly the few powers it needs,

INDEPENDENT

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT: EDITOR IN CHIEF: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARE, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Hague can save the People's Europe

UP AND down the country, thousands of people are angry. So angry that many of them will converge on York this weekend to protest, rally, condemn, wave banners and hear angry speeches. What is it this time? Not fox hunting or beef on the bone, but the single European currency. Oh that, you might say. Whatever happened to the euro? It prompted the late James Goldsmith to make "the most important video you will ever watch", delivered free to millions of homes in the run-up to the election. It was about sovereignty, our future as an independent nation state, the end of a thousand years of history. It was the issue which split the most successful party in the democratic world from top to bottom, forced a sitting prime minister to beg his own party not to "bind his hands" in the middle of an election campaign, and sent the Conservatives crashing to humiliating defeat.

Then ... well, then it went quiet. Tony Blair's strategy has been to send the issue to sleep, hathed in the soothing halm of pragmatism and a willingness to join in principle - hut not yet. Meanwhile, Tory wishful thinking that the project was bound to go belly-up before E-day has evaporated, with the Big Moment now only nine months away.

William Hague's dilemma is now acute: hig husiness, which has long been his party's core source of funding, hroadly welcomes the euro. Little England, which has long heen his party's ideological bedrock, swears to die in the last ditch holding out against it. They are gathering under the banner of the Anti-Maastricht Alliance and the slogan "Save Our Pound" to lohby European finance ministers in York today.

When Mr Hague became leader the party yearned for clarity, so he wen! with the Little Englanders. But now that gamble looks an increasingly shaky bet for the long term. And he has found himself tied in knots over the wording of the policy: opposed to joining the single currency for 10 years, opposed for two parliaments, opposed at the next election. The ultras do not like it because they are against the euro in principle and for always. Businesses do not like it because they do not want to get left behind. And the general public do not understand it.

It is clearly time for the Conservatives to find a new approach. The stage was set by Mr Hague's unlikely advance guard, Michael Portillo. Last year he was used to trail caring Conservatism before Mr Hague's conference speech. Last weekend he sounded like a Private Eye parody apology on David Frost's soft sofa. He may have given the impression, he almost said, that supporters of the euro were wicked federalists plotting to take away Britons' hirthright by stealth. He now wished to make it clear that he "respected the point of view" of those who believe the euro will unite Europe and avoid future wars. He still disagreed with it, but "if that is the enterprise they have embarked upon, I wish them well."

This week the elements of a new policy were floated in the press. It was suggested that Mr Hague would drop any fixed timetable for opposition to the euro and set out instead the tests for membership. In addition, he would shelve the idea of a referendum of party members on the issue. Conspicuously, none of this was contradicted by the Tory leader's speech to small husiness people yesterday.

The question is: is this a plausible strategy? Our answer, not really. For the rag-bag of the Anti-Maastricht Alliance, it is a simple sell-out. It does not matter how tough and impractical Mr Hague's criteria are, merely by setting out the conditions under which he would support Britain's theoretical entry into monetary union, he would be repeating the one error their



heroine Margaret Thatcher admits to making - that of moving into the grey zone marked "when the time is right".

That will not satisfy Lord Tebbit, with his vivid comparison of Economie and Monetary Union to the Titanic, nor Lord Shore, accusing Gordon Brown

of Irving to sell a "poison package" to the British people. It paves the way for a rapprochement with husiness leaders - except

for Euro-sceptic millionaire Paul Sykes, who is paying an opera singer to serenade the Chancellor and his fellow ministers with "Land of Hope and Glory". But most businesses would probably prefer to deal with a Labour Government that was more constructively engaged with the euro currency zone.

None of this, however, is nearly enough. Mr Hague urgently needs a bigger theme with which to transcend the divisions of his party and the apathy of the majority of the public.

Luckily, Mr Blair's softly-softly approach to Europe provides him with precisely such an opportunity. Why should the Tories not seize the rhetoric of a People's Europe and make it their own? Why not outflank Labour by proclaiming the goal of a democratic Europe? After all, as a party of recent government, they know all about how the institutions of the European Union are governed by deals nod trade-offs behind closed doors. The one criticism that supporters and opponents of European integration agree on is the "democratic deficit" - that the EU's ruling bodies are too remote from the continent's peoples.

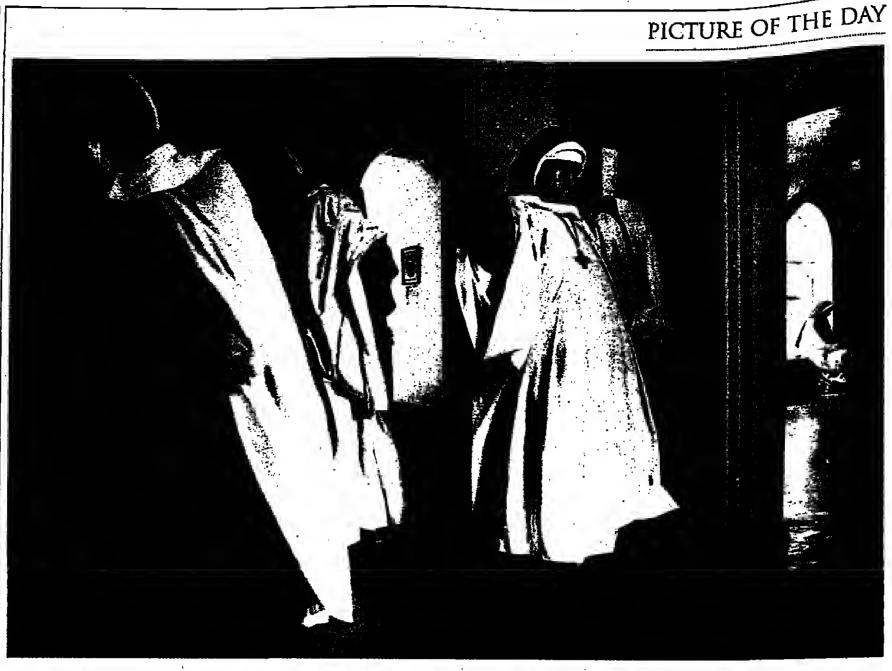
The sceptics are right to point out that the Danish government went on holding referendums on Maastricht until it got the "right" answer (they have another one shortly on the Amsterdam treaty revisions). They are right to point out that the German people are opposed to the euro.

There is no doubt that the European Parliament is a deeply flawed democratic assembly. For all the hrave talk about opening up the Council of Ministers, it remains an obscure series of closed meetings.

The People's Europe theme is consistent with moderate Euro-scepticism. A truly democratic Europe would have hesitated for much longer over a single currency. It would have had a long and open debate over the extent to which the European Central Bank should be under political control.

It is not too late to propose a new constitution for Europe: far from it. With the imminent end of the Helmut Kohl Era, and the expansion of the EU by up to 10 more members, now is precisely the time, especially for a party freed from the constraints of office, to move boldly beyond an

acceptance of the state of Europe as it is. Labour seems to have settled too easily into the technocratic consensus of Brussels cabals, with simultaneous translation. If the Tories show imagination, they have the chance to lead the European argument once again. | balance wrong. Mind, it was touch and go. When how many pounds they have in their pockets and



100-year-old habit: the nuns of Tyburn Convent celebrate the centenary of their order, formed in Paris in 1898 and established in London in 1901 Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra A 9x12 print of this photograph can be ordered on 0171-293-2534

Probation works

"PRISON WORKS", the "fatuous slogan" so elegantly demolished by your leading article ("Why our prisons are not working", 20 March) damaged more than the prison system.

Although public thinking about unishment is beginning perceptibly to change, probation-run sentences are still trying to recover from the damage done to their credibility in the last five years as "prison works" effectively marginalised and dismissed all else. Prison and probation' were deliberately set up in opposition, rather than being seen as different punishments in the same spectrum of disposals to be used by idges and magistrates.

Prohation services supervise about 30,000 more offenders than go through prisons in the course of a year, and usually for much longer periods. Granted, these offenders are usually less dangerous to the public hut they are often more prevalent and their offending is no less intractable. Without claiming absolute success, results show that reoffending is reduced, victims are spared and the offender is given an improved chance of going straight.

These sentences are neither soft (about six million hours of unpaid work is carried out by offenders on community service per year) nor without discipline (between 20 and 30 per cent of those who hreach their orders are briskly removed to prison).

Probation also provides the programmes that accord with the new catchphrase as "tough on the causes of crime": unemployment, drinking, drug-taking, educational underachievement, degenerating moral standards and outright selfishness.

serve the justice system and the victimised public. We need more champions who are prepared to come forward to nail their colours to this constructive, if non-populist, mast. MARY HONEYBALL General Secretary

The probation service works to

Association of Chief Officers of Probation London E1

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

EU's undeserving poor

THE announcement this week by Monika Wulf Mathies, European Commissioner for Regional Policy and Cohesion, ahoul changes in EU funding ("Britain to lose EU aid Newport, Isle of Wight to regions", 19 March) divides the people of Europe into the deserving poor and the undeserving poor. It would appear that we in the UK fall into the second category.

The UK is the fourth poorest largest nel contributors to its funds. To date the Commission has allocated resources according to need. However, following publication of the draft regulations, it appears that richer EU regions may stand to benefit at the expense of other regions with equally important economic and social problems.

The UK is heing penalised because of its lower levels of unemployment. In fact, financial assistance to support job creation should be given to the poorest regions and they are those with the lowest gross domestic product (GDP). South Yorkshire has been highlighted as one such area where declining heavy industry has had a severe impact. However, there are other areas which have equally severe problems and yet seem to be offered no help and are to remain excluded from the benefits of EU

membership. The Isle of Wight is one such area. Our GDP is 64 per cent of the EU average. This is lower than South Yorkshire, Merseyside and Cornwall. Our unemployment figure of 9.9 per cent is the highest in the south east. Wages on the island are 16 per cent below the national average.

The Government must act to

ing poor" of Europe.

SCOWLEY Deputy Leader and Chairman Economic Development Committee Isle of Wight Council

Radioactive food

YOU report ("Britain's radioactive lobsters upset Norway", 19 March) Michael Meacher's confidence that country in the EU and one of the radioactive foodstuffs pose no threat

to health. Mr Meacher gets his advice from the National Radiological Protection Board, who believe that internal radiation can be understood in terms of a crude "average dose" model: NRPB's belief rests on that of the International Commission on Radiological Protection; ICRP's rests on studies of disease in Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors - people exposed to external radiation. These

studies have fatal flaws. First, Professor Alice Stewart has shown that the radiation resistance of the A-bomh survivors is not, as ICRP assume, typical of the population at large. Second, the studies are silent about the health effects of internal radiation.

These and other weaknesses show that the officially accepted model is not scientifically secure, yet it is used to estimate the risks of discharges from nuclear plant like Sellafield, and of letting nuclear waste be recycled into consumer goods under the new European Basic Standards Directive. Predictably, those risks are judged to be "below regulatory concern" so the consumer will not be informed and will have no choice.

Mr Meacher says "there is never room for complacency", but when abundant evidence of genetic damage ensure that we do not remain in pic- at very low doses was reported to the London WC2

turesque poverty as the "undeserv- European Parliament in February neither the UK government nor NRPB was represented, and neither the UK nor the EU is funding research into this field. Complacency is rife. RICHARD BRAMHALL

> Low Level Radiation Campaign Llandrindod, Powys

Dividing by three

WHATEVER method the Dean of the sheep who come to pray from the goats who come to gawp, it will not 19 March). For that, as its name suggests, is the dividing into threes: originally of coffee beans into those of the best quality, middling or broken; and, more recently, of patients caught np in a medical emergency into those whose lives can he saved by rapid treatment, those who can wait a while and those alas for whom no treatment will avail.

Incidentally, it may be that once upon a time a trial was a necessary process only for the third class of individuals neither obviously guilty nor obviously innocent. ROSS KESSEL

Malborough, Devon

Foreign Office blunders

NOBODY should hlame Rohin Cook for his real or alleged hlunders in Israel. Ministers act mostly on the advice of their officials.

In 1991, John Major, during a visit to the USSR, was not allowed by the Foreign Office to meet the lader of the opposition, Boris Yeltsin. who a few months later was elected president. It was a monumental hlunder by the FCO "advisers". OLEG GORDIEVSKY

No ordinary Chancellor

ANDREW MARR is quite right to object to the torment that spin doctors inflicted on the Chancellor in order to make him look aware of families, children and their needs before his Budgel ("Playing happy families is not the way to the nation's heart", 17 March).

Surely Gordon Brown's entourage should have understood by now that they have a sulky, pouting star on their hands. All they really have to do is let him slowly work his magic on the voters, who will soon come to love him as Heathcliff rather than Cliff Richard.

The same sort of mistake was made once before with a national celebrity, when Laurence Olivier Westminster Abbey uses to separate was cast in a West End play entitled Semi-Detached in which he was required to play "an ordinary bloke". be by triage ("Pray or pay at Abbey", As the critics and public agreed, Olivier could do anything - anything hut be ordinary. MAUREEN GREEN London SW1

Pitt's income tax

DESPITE what William Hartston says (Budget Bite, 18 March), Income Tax has not been with us ever since 1799. Pitt abandoned it almost immediately because of technical problems. He reintroduced it soon afterwards. It was in fact withdrawn after Waterloo; then hrought in once again in 1842. It's been with us ever since then. ROBERT DAVIES London SE3 -

Murder, rape and hunting

Mise jou barons

STAN ROSENTHAL asserts (letter, 17 March) that hunting is in the same category as paedophilia, rape and murder. It is in fact extremely simple to distinguish between them. Murder, rape and child abuse all involve objective harm to an unconsenting human being. Hunting does not. It really is as simple as that JONATHAN JONES Oxford

LETTER from THE EDITOR

THE Chancellor's annual Budget speech is one Mr Brown sat down we realised that thanks to even what car they should drive, must be hell -of those events that mark the newspaper year. In the diary for months, lots of huild-up, everyone from staff to contacts to friends claiming to know what he will say, then the silence while he produce the paper on time, to dissect, explain, analyse every single thing he said.

This year, as in previous years, The Independent did not produce one newspaper for the morning after the Budget but effectively two: a 20-page section poring over Gordon Brown's words: and our normal "non-Budget" paper, full of the other news that day. It was frantic and hair-raising not least when I was told, with less than an hour to go before deadline, that our computers were mentally friendly cars, he said, but I can't pack hold down jobs. It is all very well for a malefinding it hard to cope with the information rush and were slowing down -- but we got there.

While the Budget is a fixture in the calendar it is also one of the ways in which a newspaper can be judged. How did we do? How did our coverage compare with our rivals? The answer to both, 1 am delighted to say, was hrilliantly. No obvious howlers, no gaping holes, no sense of getting the hut to actually take decisions that directly affect

the insistent prodding of his anonymous "friends" in Whitehall we had schemed in page 4 of the Budget section for pensions, ready for a major announcement. But, of pensions, barely a whisper. THE BIG news of the week was that the Govspeaks, followed by a mad, exhilarating dash to It was that sort of Budget: a lot of nudges and winks beforehand hut little to set the pulse racing on the day.

> ONE AREA where the Chancellor did send the right sort of signal was the environment -hut not to the satisfaction of all our readers. On the morning after the Budget, one reader rang in to complain that Mr Brown must have something against tall people. I'm not against environa 6ft 4in body into an eco-friendly Mini Metro. The call made me realise what it must like to be the Chancellor, confronted by every minority interest going, lobbied on all fronts, constantly reminded by auxious civil servants to examine all the pitfalls. At least in a newspaper, we can try

yet Mr Brown gives the impression of being in his element, Hmmm...

ernment has now pronounced that men are no longer the official family breadwinners. This realisation, revealed in The Independent - we regarded it as so important as to put it at right of the top of the front-page in our "hamper" across seven columns -- should herald a bright new dawn for all working mothers, of which I am one. Yet, what did we see in the Budget speech just hours previously? Very little to improve the lot of women struggling on their own to raise children and to dominated Government to notice a social phenomenon that many of us have known for years. Whether it will actually translate into meaningful reform of a system that still reflects a bygone age, when the man went to work and the little woman stayed at home is quite a different matand address most people's views and problems ter. I wait to be impressed, Tony and Gordon.

ROSIE BOYCOTT

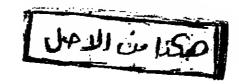
QUOTE UNQUOTE

I would be happy to see the Devil's buttermilk hanned from society ---- Ian Paisley MP on Draught Guinness

I hang a sarong on the gatepost, so people should know if I am there. With luck, they will just see steam rising from the grass --- Rupert Grey, lawyer, who bathes in a tub near a "right to roam" path

If I am given the privilege of becoming the first democratically elected Mayor of London I'll never write another hook - Lord Archer, Tory peer

The Red Book or presumably in the Prime Minister's case the unread hook - William Hague, Tory leader, on the post-Budget Treasury document



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Just suppose I looked like Leonardo DiCaprio . . .



DAVID **AARONOVITCH** ON THE PROS AND CONS OF LOOKISM

WHAT would have happened to me, I wooder, if I had been as heautiful as Leocardo DiCaprio?

I doo't mean the film-star thiog, I'm just talking about how my life might have heen different if, instead of looking like this (dear reader, please supply your own meotal arrow to the picture above), I had looked like this (now create your own meotal picture of luscious Leonardo, in the unlikely eveot that there isn't already one somewhere in the pages of this Saturday edition). What village sex god lies buried here?

Let's start at age 10. In the third and fourth years at Gospel Oak primary school, as the Beatles sang Love Me Do (and the Rolling Stones belted out the to us - incomprehensible Let's Spend The Night Together), all the boys in my class were rated by the girls, from Number One downwards, oo personal lists. The chief criterioo for a high placing was a pre-pubescent version of fanciability what the Americans call "cuteness" though pre-feminist captice played its

part too, fortunately.

These lists were prepared once a week, ruthlessly, for two years. That made about 60 lists in all. And I came top just once, one golden week when caprice woo out over cute. Otherwise, I hovered around 10 - above the obese and one-eyed, but well below the sex gods. On a par with Edward Fosbrook. No: badly dressed, large featured and scowly. I was always more in demand for quizzes than for kisses.

Nor was I ever interfered with by strange meo. The rather mild perverts who hid behind trees oo Hampstead Heath in the Sixties, camouflaged in gaberdioe, left me well alooe. They were simply not that desperate. I was always slightly offeoded by this, although, like being a milk mooitor, it was only because I hadn't heeo asked - oot because I

actually wanted the joh. Now, if I had looked like Leocardo ... I would have been top of those lists every single time. Their publication would have held no terrors for me at all. And every gaberdine from the Lido to Jack Straw's Castle, would have opened at my approach. But let's move on.

And let's skip adolescence. Being astonishingly good looking in an all-boys comprehensive school is of limited benefit. The only quality that is truly valoed there is a bone-headed athleticism. I guess Miss Hunnable, the gorgeous blonde teacher who once, unwisely, confided mild details of her sex life to Cosmopolitan, might have taken more notice of me. That's it, though.

But now we reach the part where it really matters. And can I get one thing clear? When I was Leooardo's age, I was no fatter than he is now, I did not discover food until I was 25. Still, I was not often going to be able to persuade beautiful young women into bed with me by virtue of my looks alone. Other talents had to be put on display, other tactics deployed. Seduction, for the unfair of face, is a hranch of the arts. It involves timing, sensitivity and - above all - speech. Most of us learn to become Cyranos.

So, I compensated. I wooed with words and diffidence. I cajoled. Above all I constructed a self of immense sweetness, streogth, humour and . reliability. If you can't fancy this man's face, the message went, at least check : him out as a father to your unborn . children. Sometimes I begged.

Mostly, however, I failed. No, that's wrong. Mostly, I didn't bother eveo trying (which was sometimesparadoxically - a very effective come-on). And if ever I did succeed, I behaved (on the whole) with a decorous regard that shouted to my pretty partner, "Thank you for having me. And please, please let me come again." I tried.

Ah, but what if I had looked like Leonardo? If a teeny leer or suggestive smile had been enough to furnish my student bedroom or bachelor house with the oobility of British womanhood? Would I have tried theo? Would I have displayed such elaborate - and functionally unnecessary - regard for the feelings of my partners? Would I hell. If every ticket you buy wins the lottery, why spend any time on choosing the oumbers? That's what I always say.

So, young Leonardo DiAaronovitch probably does not become a writer. And, ahal We move oo to middle age, and by oow I am probably ahead. I have settled down with a woman who is (by common consent) much better looking than I am. Brighter, too. But how might my Leonardo self have fared? He - I'm fairly sure - would be on his third marriage, leaving a trail of maladjusted children and vengeful ex-wives, all of whom simultaneously hate and adore him. Trapped into wedlock by a ruthless model at 26, it is all downhill from there. By the time we are both 45, I will be loads happier than my Leonardo alter ego.

And yet. A few minotes ago I took the lift down from the offices of the Independent to the concourse where they sell coffees of the most complex kinds. There were three young, okay-looking womeo and me. For 18 floors, and through three swing doors, we travelled together. And oot ooe of them so moch as glanced at me. I was invisible.

But Leonardo would oot have been ignored. One would have smiled at him, one would have blushed, and the third would have brushed his thigh with hers.

We have ways to make sure that your genes become your destiny

The world depicted in the cautionary film, Gattaca, is not far away, but says Tom Wilkie, we can still choose a different future

I share a genetic defect with the lead character of Gattaca, thefilm about DNA-based discrimination which went on general release yesterday. It's a common condition, usually regarded as trivial, but I've always been sensitive about it. In the Orwellian world of Gattaca, set in the unt-too-distant future, people like me would not be allowed. Or rather, we would be allotted a lowly place in the social and ecocomic rungs of society, consigned by our genetic make-up to an untouchable

Gattaca is a cool, stylish thriller set in a society where people have come to believe. that DNA is destiny - that our futures can be mapped out in our genes. There is certainly precedent for that: no less a person than Jim Watson, the codiscoverer of the double helix of DNA itself, told Time magazine in 1989, "We used to think our destiny was in the stars. Now we know it's in our genes."

Into this society comes an impostor, Vincent Freeman, whose life ambitioo is to travel into space on a mission to Titan, the largest of Saturn's moons. But Vincent was conceived in the American way, in the back seat of a car, and the roll of the DNA dice has left him short of the genetic gold standard required of astroby himself will remove the modern marks of Cain.

By the time of his younger

brother, however, their parents' passion is under control and they conceive lots of embryos by in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), selecting only the genetically most healthy for implantation into the mother's womb. Gattaca is a world of designer bahies, achieved oot by sophisticated genetic eogineering, but by a plausible extension of what is already being practiced. In Britain today, some embryos conceived through IVF are already having their genes checked and selectively implanted. This pre-implantation diagnosis is being carried out under strict regulation (in this country at least) and for the most honourable of motives. Some mothers at risk of baving boys with the devastating genetic disorder Ducheme Muscular Dystrophy have elected to have only female embryos implanted because the disorder, like haemophilia, is expressed only

But in a little noticed speech just before Christmas, one of this country's outstanding geneticists, Professor Peter Goodfellow, told a meeting of the Genetic Interest Group (the support organisation for families with genetic disorders) that it might be possible within 20 years to read out not just a few disease-related genes during pre-implantatioo diagnosis, but an embryo's entire geoetic make-up - blue eyes, fair hair, the lot. And not only would it be possible, it would be cheap. Science, it would appear, will

imitate art.

In the film, to subvert the system and realise his ambition to "slip the surly honds of Earth to touch the face of God", Vinceot colludes with a nants. No efforts he can make champion athlete, Jerome, to use samples of Jerome's DNA to deceive the oppressive and all-pervasive identity checks. Vincent wears a pad containing Jerome's blood on his forefinger to beat the entry system to the space headquarters. Staff have to pass daily through turnstiles that automatically take a minute blood sample from a finger-prick and produce a DNA-

fingerprint to check identity. Here, art is imitating politics. In July 1996, Frank Field, oow junior minister in the Departmeot of Social Security, wrote a polemic in the Sunday Mirror advocating that beoefits claimants should be generically fingerprinted so as to avoid social security fraud: "Your number's upl Why DNA testing can beat the welfare cheats".

Jerome was born with all the best genes, but they did not protect him from a road accideot that left him crippled, wheelchair-bound, and without a role in this brave oew world. He fulfils his destiny vicariously by Vincent who officially becomes Jerome (who retreats to use his middle name. Eugene - a pun oo eugenics meaning "wellborn"). The came's hand-over is symbolic (Jerome means "sacred name") and the film's title too is a pun, deriving from the four key chemicals in DNA - guanine. adenine, thymine, and cystosine - whose acronym

spells GTCA. As the relationship between Vincent/Jerome and Jerome/-Eugeoe grows beyond a mer-sequences are dependent not cantile ooe, questions of only on the scientific research identity arise. In a society based hut also upon the public poli-

sociologists of science Dorothy Nelkin and Susan Lindee. For page after page after page. they catalogue the obsession that contemporary culture has with geoes and DNA. Gattaca is a modern moral-

ity play on the errors of genetic determinism. Equally we should avoid the trap of technological determinism - of thicking that such a stylish but oppressive future is inevitable. For the truth is that such conoo genetics, who is the real cy response of society. If we or-

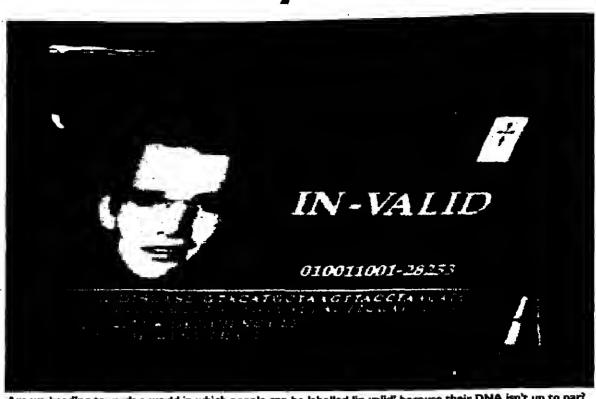
But that is not the end of the matter. Next week, the Wellcome Trust will announce a programme to spend £15m over the next five years examining the sorts of issues raised fictionally by Gattaca, Half the money will go oo bringing such ethical issues to public attentioo. Two plays for secondary schools have already piloted the initiative: The Gift, on genetics; and Cracked on meotal health.

The rest will go on research into the social and public policy consequences of biomedical advance, including understandiog public attitudes and the values that inform public judgements on moral acceptability. The outputs of this rescarch programme should help ioform decision-makers at all levels about the appropriate policies to pursue in the light of developments in the laboratories and hospital clinics.

Most of the recent controversial scientific discoveries -Dolly for example - were the fruits of years of scientific research. Exploring their implications for society merits as serious an effort in social and policy research, rather than sound-bites and media punditry. That research may oot lead to "the" answer, but it will map out some possible futures. Theo it is up to society to decide.

And as for my geoetic defect? That is a matter for me and my family. We do oot live in the world of Gattaca. Yet.

Dr Tom Wilkie heads the biomedical ethics section at the Wellcome Trust.



Are we heading towards a world in which people can be labelled "in-valid" because their DNA isn't up to par?

Genes are not destiny, but they could become so if everyone starts believing that they are

passes through the turnstile every morning or the man gene discovery-freedom from whose DNA profile passes the to sexual relationships in such merits portrayed in this film. a society? In one scene, people queue up to have DNA samples analysed - single strands of hair from potential lovers and partners - including one woman who has her lips swabbed to analyse the DNA of the man she kissed 20 minutes earlier, to see if she should take the relationship any further. Another nice touch is the helical staircase in the apartment shared by Vincent/Jerome and Jerome/Eugeoe.

Geoes are oot destiny, but they could become so if everyone starts believing that they are. Anyone who thinks the mindset of the world of Gattaca a tad implausible should turn to the excellent little book The DNA Mystique - the gene as selling his genetic samples to a cultural icon by the American

Jerome? The individual who dered society differently then we could have the benefits of the suffering imposed by geturnstiles? And what happens netic disease - without the de-Does making this society's

problem absolve the geneticists of responsibility? It is unreasonable, in my view, to expect scientists whose expertise may be in, say, molecular biology also to have the expertise in the historical and social sciences necessary to form a judgement about the wider consequences of their research. Some may wish to express a view as coocerned individual citizens; some

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Arise, you barons of the regions and the cities



PHILLIPS FAIR SHARES OF THE NATIONAL PIE

IN THIS country, since the Magna Carta locked us all into a single kingdom, the only real remaining badge of regionalism is your telephooe area code. But to prevent any development of the sort of regional loyalty that led to the Wars of the Roses, the Government cunningly keeps changing the telephone codes; for example having abolished London government they divided it into two parts - 0171 and 0181.

Now, it's all change again. In two years time, London, Cardiff, Northern eland and several other areas get new area codes, supposedly because of spiralling demand for new phone numbers. The phone compaoies tell us it's our own fault for wanting in use faxes, the Internet, separate lines for our teenage children. Oew hurglar alarms and the like. But they then spend every waking moment trying to sell us further exotic uses for fibre optic cables. Do they think of the huge cost to

phone subscribers when they make these decisions? This is oot just about reprinting a few sheets of fragrant laveoder notepaper. It is about telling eight million mothers, ten times each, that the number has changed. It is about the oumber of times you dial the wrong code and get that especially irritating voice telling you that you must dial again and you won't be charged. It is about the fact that whatever your oew area code is, some estate agent will tell the newspapers that it's deeply unfashionable. And above all it is about Whitehall's determination to stop us identifying too closely with the regions in which we live.

However, there is a silver lining. Labour, though centralist by instinct, had a deceotralising manifesto, to which it must, sometime, pay some attention. Even the phone companies are being brought into line. London, tragically divided between the 0171s and 0181 five years ago, will once again be reunited - ironically just about the time that the capital elects Richard Bransoo or somebody else Mayor of Londoo. Perhaps the oew Mayor will get to receive his first phone call of congratulations from the Prime Minister of Scotland, who will, if he is wise, be very nice indeed to his newly elected regional colleague. Other powerhouse city-regions - Cardiff in Wales, Manchester in the North-West, Birmingham to the Midlands can soon expect to elect their own regional bosses. And this will not only change local government; it will change the dynamics of national government too.

That's because, as the Balkanisation of Britain picks up pace, the barons who lead the city regions of the UK will want to rewrite the Magna Carta. In this respect, the pre-eminent baron in the land will be the Mayor of Loodon. He or she will represent a third of the UK's economic power, the south-east has nearly a quarter of the population, and is the most dynamic region in Europe. This powerhouse provides more than £6bo pounds worth of subsidy to the rest of the nation each year, according to a study by the distinguished economist Douglas McWilliams.

No less a figure that Ken Livingstone alluded, this week to the Scottish deficit with London. He wants London's new government to insist on getting its dosh back, even if it means defying national government; actually I suppose Ken would like it back especially if it meant defying a Labour Prime Minister. The argument for this reverse redistribution is that the money London gives away at the behest of national government could go a long way to solving the investment problems besetting London Transport, which has to defend a lumbering, dirty, technologically outdated underground service.

John Prescott, who happens to be in charge of transport, as well as regional policy, narrowed the options for the putative Mayor yesterday by proposing a mild version of the sort of sell-off that vote for the Northern league to fend

is tooking for private investors to buy the tracks, while the public sector (presumably the new London government) holds oo to passenger services. I would be surprised to see the private sector rushing to take on the tracks without the right either to force up ticket prices or to develop the enormously valuable sites around major tube stations. But it's a start. The true test of whether this strategy works will be if it delivers a few new stations in the transport desert known as South London.

Of course, the basic point is that this sort of policy should not be coming from the mouth of the Deputy Prime Minister at all; he should oot have to worry about the fate of any one region, even one as important as London. It should be the capital's own leaders who decide which parts of the transport system most need resuscitation, how it can be done, and which partners London can tolerate. The same should go for Newcastle, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol.

But some in the political classes have serious reservations about this. The eyes of the most sophisticated political observers are turning to the success of regional parties in rich parts of Europe and North America, increasingly restive about having to bear the burden of supporting less favoured or less enterprising areas. In California, they worry about immigration, oot just from the favelas of Mexico, but from trailer parks in Nevada and Arizona; in Milan, they

the previous government so loved. He off the Sicilians as much as the North Africans; and in Munich, it is a tossup as to whether they loathe the East Berliners more than the Turks. In the name of democracy, our gov-

ernment is giving expression to these trends, which is oo balance, smarter than trying to suppress them. But Westminster's politicians have to be aware that the further they go towards developing the power of regions, the more they weaken their own strategic influence and their capacity to frighten the local barons. Saying to Scots that they must play the game Westminster's way is ooe

thing - Edinburgh knows that without that connection they would be hard put to pay the hills for their excellent schools, maintained on a pile of southern English spondulicks. It would be hard to make the same case to a region which has an economy bigger than Switzerland's and on the success of which the rest of the country relies. The politicians of central govern-

ment are caught in a dilcmma. On the one hand, they want to give more power to the people; but on the other, the last thing they need is a clutch of powerful baronies which will both wage war on each other and hlame Westminster for every pothole oo their patch.

So where should the balance of power lie? Sooner, rather than later, as the harons gather their forces, the Government is going to have to make clear what its new Magna Carta looks like; and I bet they can see the the writing on the wall already. It says: "All

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Chaos as FTSE soars past 6,000 to push top UK companies' value above £1 trillion

trading system, taking the shine October. off a surge in the FTSE 100 insoared past the 6,000 mark for the first time yesterday.

The rise, which later fell valued for the first time at more than £1 trillion.

dex of leading shares, was forced to suspend the FTSE 100 for five of the market price.

Institutions privately said wild fluctuations, which saw the index swing by 230 points, on market movements - were had discredited the entire sys- due to expire. Trading was at 1em. One large fund manager. four times its normal volume on which handles hillions of expiry dates. pounds of index-tracking funds. said it would protest to the Stock a block of blue into a sea of red

10.15 and 15 seconds and 10.15 point gain before plunging to and 30 seconds, the index register a 117 point deficit. plunged by 160 points, only to soar by 140 points before the minute was up.

Traders were unable to see the fluctuation as FTSE International had suspended the The index was then recalculated without including two rogue trades in British Gas shares.

It is understood that in one hogus trade, 50,000 BG shares were traded at 108p, just over a third of the more normal BG price of 302p. In the same minute between 10.15 and 10.16, a further 150,000 BG shares were sold at 200p.

Stephen Vale, spokesman for FTSE International, said the trades were "out of line with

ters". It is believed to be the first time the FTSE 100 has been INSTITUTIONAL investors suspended since the Stock yesterday angrily criticised the Exchange introduced its order-Slock Exchange's order-driven driven trading system last

A spokeswoman for one dex of leading shares, which well-known fuod manager, which handles hillions of pounds in funds designed to track the index, said: "It is a bit away in a volatile day's trading. of a funny system that can saw Britain's biggest companies actually allow something like that to happen. The fact that you can have prices moving FTSE International, the around like that - and you company which publishes the in- can't trade effectively - doesn't do the system any credit."

The wild fluctuations minutes after rogue trades went happened in the 20 minutes through at as little as one-third between 10.10am and 10.30am. the official period when futures contracts on the FTSE financial instruments used to bet

Trading screens turned from at the hlink of an eye, rising at In just 15 seconds, between one point to achieve a 107

The basket trades came in so quickly that stock exchange information systems simply failed to keep up. At one point, Reuters and Bloomberg screens differed by 150 points in the levindex between 10.15 and 10.20. el they gave for the FTSE 100.

Simon Fine, UK equity strategist at Kleinwort Benson, said: "Both the futures and the options were expiring oo a lot of volatility. Obviously someone had a quite large exposure which has caused the volatility."

Market sources said the volatility was caused by a pitched-battle between investmeot banks as the futures contracts expired. Wave after wave of "basket trades" - simultaneous trades in every company previous trades in the stock and in the FTSE 100-sent the index broke the automatic parame- soaring and plummeting.



Goldman Sachs, the giant American investment bank, was seen as a hig seller of stocks, the FTSE. while other investment banks

were net buyers. Traders said Goldman Sachs was believed to have had a giant short position on FTSE futures, effectively betting that the index would be lower than others thought. It was selling shares which it had bought to hedge

sales put downward pressure on

The Stock Exchange's orderdriven trading system normally suspends trades which are more than 20 per cent above or below the opening price - or the last order book trade. But this rule is lifted during the expiry period for FTSE futures.

In December last year, the rogue trades yesterday could ings made before April next the day.

this position. The volume of Stock Exchange slapped a have been caused by a mis- year would be limited to a torecord fine of £350,000 on JP take, rather than deliberate tal of £50,000. Morgan Securities for stock manipulation.

manipulation. The fine folpicious trading on 28 firm had violated rules which outlawed attempts to manipulate the index.

Market sources helieve the

that investors would invest November, which found the heavily in Personal Equity Plans (PEPs) following the Budget. 6042. On Tuesday, Gordoo Brown; '

The FTSE momentarily hit The surge in the FTSE was 6,105 - a record level which vallowed an investigation into sus- fuelled by a widespread belief ues the top 100 companies at over £1,000 billion - before slumping to 5880 and settling at

After Wall Street opened. quer, ended fears that Pep sav- closed at 5956.3, down 41.6 on

the Chancellor of the Exche-shares came off sharply and

Halifax members received pay-

checking of 30 million accounts

and a mail of 32 million items -

the largest single mailing ever un-

dertaken by the Royal Mail.

The conversion involved the

outs averaging £2,400 each.

Shake-up of NICs could drive engineers abroad

ENGINEERING companies are seriously considering leaving the country because of the Government's shake-up of National Insurance, announced in the Budget on Tuesday.

The Engineering Employers Federation said the increase in employers' National Insurance contributions (NICs) -- which will rise from 10 to 12.2 per cent on all pay above £210 a weekhad prompted some members to consider moving elsewhere.

One well-known company, which did not wish to be named, has already warned Martin Taylor, the Barclays chief executive who is conducting a review of tax and benefits, that it might leave the country if his proposals were implemented.

The proposals for reform of NICs came in a report by Mr Taylor, published on the same day as the Budget, and will be implemented in April next year.

Under the Budget a progressive system of employers' contributions, rising in steps from 3 per cent at £61 to 10 per cent at £210, will be replaced by a single rate of 12.2 per cent on earnings above £81 a week.

While low-paying employers will pay less for most employees paid less than £450 a week, those paying higher wages will pay more. Wages of £800 a week - common in the hi-tech engineering sector -- would incur an

extra £7.84 in NICs. David Yeandle, head of employment affairs at the EEF. said: "We see this predominantly as a bad thing for our sector. If it's going to be revenue-neutral for the Chancellor it is not going to be cost-neutral for the hi-tech industry. It is particularly difficultfor those employing lots of

"I haven't seen anything to justify that this would provide more jobs. It is unlikely to cresumer spending. The 7.5 million ate any new jobs in the engineering sector. We don't believe that companies make decisions about taking people on because of these relatively marginal effects."

The engineers said there was too little time to consult on the proposals, which were first revealed in Fehruary in an informal consultation by Mr

The CB1 has also warned that the effects on high-paying employers will be to impose an additional burden at a time when exports are already being squeezed by the strong pound.

Savoy bidding war may leave hotel group in US hands

By Andrew Yates

THE SAVOY HOTEL, one of past but in a dramatic change the most prestigious io of heart are now understood Britain, could fall into Amer- to he willing to sell. ican hands, it emerged yesterday. The Savoy Group, for Granada, the hotels and which owns a string of up- media giant, which inherited market botels including Clar-The Berkeley as well as the ter takeover battle. Granada Savoy, admitted it was in have been looking to sell their takeover talks with a number of buyers.

to acquire the group. The City expects a bidding war for the group which could push its price well above the £500m

Starwood Ludging and Meditrust, two ambitious hotel groups which have used their special tax status in the Ramon Pajares, the managing US to expand rapidly, are among the front-runners to buy the luxury hotels, although at least five bids are company over the last few believed to have been submitted for the group.

Negotiations are still continuing and a deal could be tied up within the next few

A day in the markets

The Wontner family which has controlled the Savoy since results next Tuesday.

1953 has staunchly resisted offers to buy the hotels in the A deal would be good news

a 68 per cent stake in Savoy idge's. The Connaught and after it acquired Forte in a hitstake for some time, but a deal has proved difficult as the Several American hotel stake only carries 42 per cent groups are leading candidates of the voting rights. Granada is believed to be seeking some of its other upmarket hotels including Grosvenor House as part of the takeover package. Savoy's share price jumped

255p to 1750p and Granada's share price leapt 39p to 1035p. Any huyer is likely to retain director of Savoy Group who is credited with transforming the financial fortunes of the years. A takeover will also further the Savoy Group's plans to open new hotels throughout continental Europe. The Savoy is expected to unveil pre-tax profits of around

£20m when it unvells annual



Mike Blackburn: Earned £824,000 last year

Halifax chief doubles his money in first year on the market

By Michael Harrison

MIKE BLACKBURN, the chief executive of the Halifax, was paid £824,000 last year, including a bonus of more than £300,000 for helping steer its conversion from a building society into a bank.

Halifax's annual report and accounts, posted to shareholders yesterday, shows that its eight executive directors shared in a bonus pool of £1.064m linked to the £20bn flotation last June, the biggest ever conversion of a mutual society.

Roger Boyes, the Halifar's finance director, and Gren Golwell, its deputy chief executive,

each received flotation bonuses owned, was £395,817. However, leashing a huge wave of conof £178,000.

Mr Blackburn's £823,930 pay packet last year represented an increase of 108 per cent on the previous year. It was made up of £421,951 in basic pay and benefits, an annual bonus of £93,500 and a medium term bonus of

This last element was based flected the successful flotation and Halifax's implementation of efficiency, new technology and cost and capital allocation pro-

His pay for the previous year, when Halifax was still mutually

this figure did not include any medium term bonus.

Halifax said that if the bonus has been spread evenly across the two years then the change in salary would have been from £577.000 to £676,000 - an increase of 17 per cent.

Total board pay for 1997 was £3.74m compared with £1.93m over a 23-mouth period and re- in 1996. However, again, the figures are distorted by the nonpayment of medium term bonus

The Halifar flotation produced the biggest windfall of the year and lifted conversion proceeds to more than £30bn, un-

The Halifax received an estimated 9 million telephone inquiries and 300,000 letters. Profits before tax in 1997

were £1.6bn against £928m the previous year although 1996 including a large one-off exceptional item. The Halifax ended the year by announcing a £1hn buy back of shares.

Texaco in talks to sell gas supply business

By Michael Harrison

TEXACO has put its long-term commitment to the UK as market in doubt by hoisting a "for sale" sign over its industrial and commercial gas business.

A Texaco spokeswoman confirmed yesterday the company had begun talks with a number of potential buyers for Texaco Natural Gas, which is among Britain's top 10 gas suppliers.

"It is very early stages yet and we have only just started talking to other companies," she added. The 50 staff of Texaco Natural Gas were told earlier this week about the decision to sell the business.

"A strategic review was undettaken and as a result Teraco decided to focus on its core busi-

ness," the spokeswoman said. Texaco stressed that the move would not directly affect Calortex, its joint venture domestic gas

industry observers believe that Texaco may ultimately decide to withdraw also from the UK domestic gas market.

Calortex is Britain's second biggest independent supplier to the domestic market and is 50 per cent owned by Teraco. The remaining 50 per cent is owned by Nuon, the Dutch multi-utility

Calortex has picked up JOHN TOYNE has walked 210,000 of the 1.1m customers out on a 35-year husiness cathat have switched from British reer, the last three years as Gas as competition is rolled out managing director of United nationwide. The electricity com-Carriers, in order to write pany Eastern is the biggest independent supplier to the

domestic gas market with Northampton home yesterday 300,000 customers and the third about his decision to ahandon biggest player in the business gas market with a 13 per cent share. senior management in favour of a literary career. The company is aiming for two "Its been on my mind to do million gas customers by 2000 althis for a long time," he said.

though many of these are likely Tve spoken about it to my colto be its existing electricity cusleagues for the last 18 months. I'm 55 this year and now's my tomers. The company plans to announce next week how many of chance to write on a full time its domestic electricity customers it has signed up to take gas.

"You're talking to an ex-

tremely happy person," Mr Toyne added.

United Carriers chief opts for a novel career

Doug Rogers, chairman of United Carriers, will add Mr Toyne's responsibilities to his existing ones. United is a domestic parcel carrying group Mr Toyne spoke from his hased in Wellingborough,

> have a publisher yet, but he has appeared in print before, about

20 years ago. When I was a young man got some short stories published in magazines. Now I'm working on an amusing busi-

Northamptonshire. Mr Toyne doesn't actually

Mr Toyne, whose favourite author is Anthony Burgess, led an MBO at Lowfield Distributors seven years ago, and almost ran off to be an author then. But he realised he wanted a few more years in the

jects on the go," said Mr Toyne.

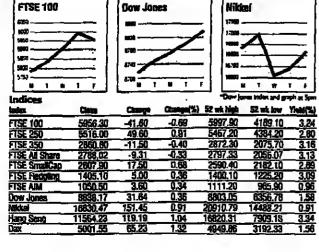
of a publisher so far. "You've

got to start somewhere," he

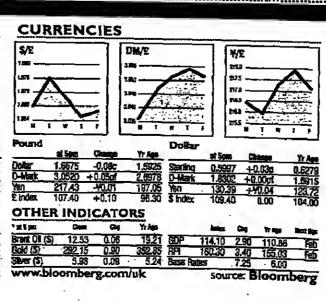
He was unfazed by the lack

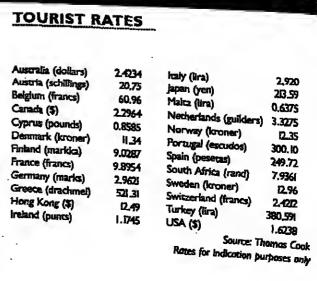
world of Mammon. Did he worry that he would be lonely in his new career? "Being an MD is an extremely lonely job," he replied. "I like ness novel and a thriller. I my own company and I'm fairly also have about six other pro- well motivated.

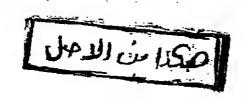
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JEREMY WARNER ON WHY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST TO PRIVATISE THE TUBE OUTRIGHT. THE ARGOS DEFENCE. AND SHENANIGANS AT NEWCASTLE

UNITED

Why Prescott's got it all wrong over the Tube

SINCE New Labour is philosophically mentally I disagree. Actually this is not the founded on the idea of the "middle" or modern, clever, third way it pretends to be "third" way - neither old right nor old left ly cropping up in policy. John Prescott, our give you a good belting" Deputy Prime Minister, was at it again yesterday, promising a third way approach for dealing with the problem of under investment in London's Underground system.

What he's proposing is neither privatisation nor nationalisation but somewhere in between. The job of running. investing in, and maintaining the Tube's crumbling infrastructure is to be let out to private sector operators. For their trouble, they will be paid an annual fee from London Underground, which will remain in the public sector.

Our transport correspondent, Randeep Ramesh, thinks this a thoroughly sensible, and quite clever, solution, allowing the tube to gain the benefits of private sector efficiencies while at the same time maintaining full public sector accountability and control. Perhaps more important, it will also allow the heavy costs of the investment needed to revive the underground to be spread over a 10 to 20year period. Classic private finance initiative stuff, in other words.

I can see these arguments, but funda-

modern, clever, third way it pretends to be at all, but a good old fashioned comprobut New Labour -- it is hardly surprising mise, a messy and mmeoessary fudge born that we find the same rhetoric constantelse. The ultimate cost to the taxpayer is virtually certain to be a good deal higher than either of the alternatives, privatisation or fully fledged public control. Like most things bought on the never-never, you don't notice it until years later when you tote up the costs and realise the full horror of your folly. Fortunately for Mr Prescott, by that stage he'll be long past caring.
The most sensible approach would al-

ways have been to privatise the Tube outright. The money raised by floating it would have funded the necessary investment and some, and the public sector would for ever have rid itself of the costs of the capital's transport system. That was perhaps never going to happen after all Labour said in opposition about privatisation of the railways. These old Labour objections to the concept of privatised utilities are reinforced in Mr Prescott's mind by the fear of being responsible for a fat cat profit. Privatisation, whatever its benctits, nearly always involves some degree of top slicing by the City and its friends. Politically, Mr Prescott would never have been able to stonsach being involved in another privatisation giveaway.

On the other hand, the public sector so-come to an end. Assuming Mrs Blockit lution was always going to run up against meany Gordon Brown at the Treasury. Mr Prescott has managed to squeeze another £500m for his department out of the Chancellor for next year, most of which will be spent on keeping the Underground up and running. But it's not enough, not nearly enough Heno ... e PFI "third way".

Don't be conned. The idea that this provides a solution is just accounting mumbo jumbo. It gets the capital costs off the Exchequer's books and allows them to be spread over a prolonged period of time, but one way or another we still pay. Moreover, because the private sector has a higher cost of capital than the public, and always demands a return, the cost is likely to be higher. One way or another, the fat cats are going to have their cream. The PFI merely forces them to think of ingenious new ways of doing it. This is not the right solution, and in his heart, Mr Prescott probably knows it.

THE BATTLE for control of Argos, the catalogue retailer, has so far been one of the duliest hostile takeover bids in recent memory. After a novel first over, when it emerged that owing to illness and fatigue, Argos had neither a chief executive nor a finance director, the innings has settled into one of stultifying boredom.

Thankfully, the phoney war is about to

doesn't rain the whole thing off by dis-patching Lord Wolfson's £1.6bn bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, we can expect the pace to quicken a bit over the next few weeks. Mind you, the above possibility shouldn't be wholly discounted.

On conventional competition criteria, there's not much of a case for referring GUS's bid. GUS has a dominant market share of conventional agency mail order, but it's not in Argos style retailing at all. Even so, officials at the Office of Fair Trading have been impressed by the argument that the deal should be judged more on whether it harms the consumer than on traditional market share assessments.

A comparison of the two catalogues reveals that Argos is a good deal cheaper on many items than GUS. Furthermore, Argos is planning a big push into home shopping (the modern day equivalent of mail order). So it's reasonable to contend that the takeover would remove a big slug of actual and potential price competition from the market.

All the same, the argument is a long shot and in any case Argos would be foolish to make an MMC reference the main plank of its defence. Stuart Rose, the new chief executive, would get no thanks from the City for that.

Instead this former stalwart of M&S

is planning to kick off the serious part of his defence next week with a series of presentations in which be will robustly challenge the idea that Argos is over the hill. Argos badly disappointed expectations last year, and there is little doubt management had become overly sleepy and complacent.

But the concept is still a supremely successful one which up until last year had consistently delivered double digit revenue and profits growth. There's no reason it shouldn't do so again. The financial pyrotechnics -a big special dividend and profits forecast come later. My guess is that Lord Wolfson is going to have to pay a minimum 650p a share to be assured of success. Given that his opening shot is only 570p, he's going to have to bite hard on his pride to pay it.

I FIRST MET John Mayo when he was working as an SG Warburg corporate financier on the demerger of ICI and Zeneca. He's a dever, talented man and he's deserved his success, first at Zeneca and now as finance director of GEC. So what possessed him to join the board of Newcastle United, whose corporate affairs seem richly to deserve the team's nickname, the magpies, is something of a mystery. The inevitable reckoning has come sooner than even I could have predicted. If he is to salvage his City reputation, Mr Mayo must either fire the club's wayward directors, or resign himself.

Umbro sacks **US** workforce to stave off financial crisis

UMBRO, the US-owned British sportswear group, is relocating its head office to Manchester and sacking virtually its entire workforce in America in order to stave off a financial crisis which has threatened the group's future.

The decision to slash costs is a concerted effort to return the cash-flow. The American division group to a stable financial footing. The move is likely to mean Um-bro will be able to retain the contract to supply the England

foothall kit. down its sales operation in the US, baving already announced the dosure of its manufacturing facilities over there, which will result in the total loss of more than 500 jobs. It is close to securing a licensing partner in the US which will market all its products.

Umbro is also close to announcing a buyer for its sportswear factories in Merseyside and Stokeon-Trent which will save more than . 100 jobs in the UK. The manufacturing facilities were another casualty of Umbro's financial woes.

The Football Association had originally awarded Umbroa new £50m contract to supply the England team's kit for the next four years, to run after its current contract comes up for renewal in July 1999. Growing concerns about the group's financial stability put that Nationwide.

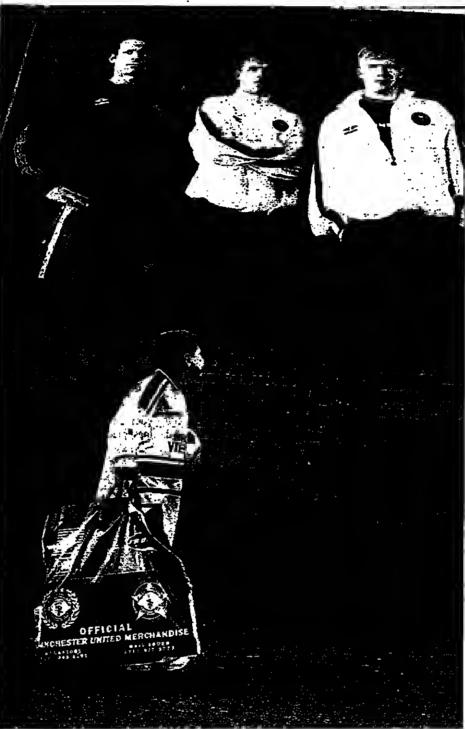
decision in doubt. Industry sources believe the deal is all but done. Umbro, which is owned by

Stone Manufacturing, a family-run American sportswear business, will now be run operationally from the UK, although it will retain a board in the US. The group paid the penalty for expanding too fast which knocked a hole its made a sizeable loss last year, although its UK business remains probleble.

Umbro has secured the support of its bankers during its difficult trading period and denied rumous that it had been forced to pursue bankruptcy proceedings

Manchester United, which also uses Umbro's kit, said yesterday that it was keen to retain the group's services. Martin Edwards, the club's chief executive said: "We are happy with Umbro. We have a contract with them for the next four years and do not see any problem with that." Umbro is now looking to take

advantage of the rapid growth in the European sports market. It also pledged £500,000 yesterday to help England bid to host the World Cap in 2006. It has thrown its weight behind a multi-million campaign that is also being endorsed by British Airways, Littlewoods, Marks & Spencer and



Kitted out: Manchester United said its contract with Umbro would continue

Man Utd targets the high street

MANCHESTER United, Britain's most popular football clnb, is talking to big sports retailers about setting up a series of "shop-within-shops" on the high street, writes Andrew Vates.

The mini-shops would comprise a large area within an existing retail outlets devoted to United's merchandise, including anything from key rings and mugs to tracksuits and football

The club is also booing to set up retail outlets in the Far East as it tries to cash in on its large fan base in the region. It is lookmg to open a mixture of standalone shops as well as teaming up with local retailers to provide new formats within their stores. The initiative is part of a strong push to sell its strong brand name overseas. The introduction of stand alone shops abroad raises the possibility that the club will eventually introduce similar stores in the UK if the experiment proves successful.

Martin Edwards, chief executive of the club, confirmed yesterday that the club was talking to large sports chains in the UK about forming a retail partnership.

"We are talking to retailers but nothing has yet been decided," he said.

The competition to join forces with United is likely to be intense. JJB Sports, JD Sports and Sports Division are all likely to be interested in a

UK Safety shares plunge as managers make offer

Shares in debt-laden UK Safety plunged yesterday after the company recommended a 2.5p a share cash bid from a management buy-out vehicle. The offer, backed by venture capital boutique Alchemy Partners, values the industrial footwear group at £1.01m, a 66.7 per cent discount to its value of £3.03m at close of trading on Thursday. UK Safety shares closed last night at 4.75p, down 2.75p. The MBO team comprises John Newman, chief executive, Paul Cockburn, production director and Ken Elavia sales and marketing director.

Anthony Mitchard the company's non-executive chairman said: "The independent directors consider that acceptance of the offer is the best option for shareholders to secure some return on their investment,"

JBA profits dip

JBA Holdings, the software company whose shares halved on a profits warning last month, yesterday reported a dip in profits for the first time in 16 years and said it was shifting its strategy to achieve long-term growth. The company announced pre-tax profits fell to £5.2m from £11.3m in the previous year despite a 37 per cent hike in revenue growth to £221.7m from £161.8m. JBA shares fell another 7.5p yesterday to close at 635p.

Supermarket shares jump

Shares in Somerfield and Kwik Save, the supermarket groups. jumped after they announced their recommended merger was now uncooditional in all respects. Somerfield and Kwik Save announced plans for a £1.3bn merger on19 February, aiming to be the leading high street supermarket chain. On completion of merger, Kwik Save becomes a subsidiary of Somerfield. Somerfield closed up 33p at 331.5p, while Kwik Save gained 36p to end the day on 381.5p.

BAA wins Aussie franchise

British airport operators bave been awarded franchises to run a further four airports in Australia. BAA, which already has an equity stake in Melbourne airport, is part of a consortium chosen to operate Launceston airport in Tasmania. Manchester Airport is a member of the consortium selected to take over Adelaide, Coolangatta and Parafield airports.

Swallowfield

In our report on the annual results of Swallowfield, the toileteries and cosmetics group, in yesterday's Independent which accompanied a photograph of Tony Wardell, managing director, being given a shave at a London barber shop, we identified Mr Wardell as Bill Otley, the chairman. We apologise for any embarrassment caused.

Central Bank squabbles likely to dominate European get-together

THE MEETING of European finance ministers in York kicked off last night with a dinner in the picturesque surroundings of the National Railway Museum.

The formal agenda of the meeting, which is likely to be overshadowed by squabbles over the make-up of the European Central Bank (ECB), will be dominated by Gordon Brown's launch of a joint European initiative for the troubled Asian economies. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will propose a joint EU and Asian

Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, previews the meeting of finance ministers

centre for financial restructuring, intended to create a network of technical assistance in areas such as accountancy and law.

Against the background of a planned rally by Euro-sceptic organisations, the main issue on the European front will be increasing competition and completing the single market in financial services. Mr Brown will urge structural reform of the capital and goods markets to guarantee the success of the

single European currency. Duisenberg of the Nether-Other items on the agenda in-

clude the extension of EU membership to the countries of central and eastern Europe, and the spillover from the Asian crisis to the Enropean есопоту.

The real excitement is likely to take place in the margins of the meeting, with the continuing wrangle over who should head the ECB. The candidacy of the initial front-runner, Wim

lands, was called into question when the French proposed Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Banque de France. The French also insisted rates their national currencies

earlier this week that three of the six seats on the ECB board should be reserved for Germany, France and Italy. This has upset the Spanish, while the UK is unhappy that it has not won a guaranteed seat when it eventually joins.

Six months ago, this weekend's gathering was seen as the key meeting for making the decisions on which countries could join EMU and at what

from 1 January 1999. Next week the European Commission and the European Monetary Institute - forerunner of the ECB - will publish their reports on whether aspirants have met

would be exchanged for euros

the criteria set out in the Maastricht Treaty.

The Commission is expected to rubber-stamp the politicians' conclusion that there will be 11 members in the first wave, only Denmark, Greece, Sweden and the UK remaining outside. The EMI might raise doubts over whether Italy has genuinely achieved convergence with the other economies.

Among academics and in the financial markets, the presumption is that there is no derailing the EMU train. No financial market disruption is expected.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Concurrent Tech.(F)	4.77m (6.57m)	0,559m (1.3m)	0.77p (2.57p)	0.1p (0.2p)
Deames Holdings (F	7.14m (7.78m)	-0.570m (-0.569m)-1.3p (-6.8p)	nī.
Edinbryh.Off&Com (F)	4.37m (3.89m)	0.643m (0.509m)	1.84p (1.45p)	0.3p (0.75p)
Fortness & Mineça (1)	21.72m (21.71m)	2.010m (2.477ar)	14.0p (17.4p)	4.3p (4.3p)
JBA Holdings (F)	221.7m (161,8m)	5.23m (11.26m)	10.1p (18.3p)	5.1p (5.1p)
Johnson Grp.Cleanes (F)	177.3m(170.5m)	17.48m (18.8m)	16.88p (24.59p)	12.6p (11.8p
Magrae (i)	n/a (n/a)	1.1m (8.5m)	1.0p (14.5p)	0.8p (nH)
Portunision Politers.(F)	30.78m (31.66m)	5.52m (6.42m)	35.0p (40.8p)	13.2p (13.2p
Charles Taylor (F)	22.32m (20.03m)	3.38m (-5.34m)	9.0p (-19.2p)	4.5p (2.69p)
TDS Circuits (F)	15.75m (13.27m)	0 798m (0.742m)	2.43p (2.17p)	nii (nii)
lorday & Carlisio(F)	19.81m (20.72m)	1.36m (1.16m)	6.2p (5.8p)	ni
UK Salety (F)	29.20m (30.20m)	-0.768m (0.495m)	-2.2p (1.3p)	nii
Waterman Partierably(I)	11.40m (8.30m)	0.722m (0.480m)	2.50 (1.70)	1.0p (0.75p)

WHO'S SUING

JOHN WILLCOCK



TRUSTOR, the Swedish investment company which suffered the disappearance of £48 million last year, has applied to the High Court in London for an order to prevent Jonathan Guinness, former chairman of Trustor, from removing any of his assets from England and Wales, up to the value of £40 million.

The Swedish company has included St. Crispin Trading A.B. in the same writ. Baron Moyne has said he bas sold his 52 per cent stake in Trustor last November to St Crispin, a company registered in the Vir-

gin Islands. Trustor has issued a second writ against another eight parties, claiming compensation and damages over the affair. The company is claiming "damages for conspiracy to defraud the Plaintiff of funds" from four of these parties: Lindsay Smallbone, Baron Moyne's long-time adviser, who became managing director of Trustor when Baron Moyne joined the company last June; Introcom (International) Lid, a

firm registered in Gibraltar, Thomas Jisander, a Swedish adviser to Baron Moyne who has been arrested in Sweden over the affair, and Joachim Posner, also known as Joe Falk, a convicted fraudster based in Barbados who is currently being sought by the Swedish police.

Trustor includes four other parties in the second writ, whom it is suing for compensation over its losses; Guinness Management Limited, of Baker Street, London; M & A Financial Services of Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London; Yumina Trading Corporation, based in Panama, and CMB Change Mont Blanc Finance SA. a company based in Geneva.

Both Lord Moyne and Mr Smallbone have protested their innocence in the affair, saying they were used as a front for Swedish business associates who were responsible for the money's disappearance. The first Trustor writ against Baron

Moyne and St Crispin Trading seeks an or-

der that he does not "remove from Eng-

The writ adds that order, if granted, does not prohibit the First Defendant (Baron Moyne) from spending up to £1,000 a week towards his ordinary living expenses and does not prohibit either De-

fendant from spending a reasonable sum on legal advice and representation." Allen & Overy, the City law firm, is acting on behalf of Trustor.

or deal with or diminish the value of any

of their respective assets which are in Eng-

land and Wales whether in their own re-

spective names or not and whether solely

or jointly owned up to the value of

A CONCERT producer and director is suing the Spice Girls for a total of nearly £350,000 after the girl band sacked him last November. Gregory Lynn, who trades as "Adrenalynn" and is based in Twickenham, claims that he signed an agreement with the band on 17 September 1997 "to act as the

land and Wales or in any way dispose of director and producer of concerts to be performed by the artistes 'the Spice Girls' ". The agreement covered the live concert

tour which started on 16 February 1998 and which is due to end on 31 December this year, Mr Lynn's writ claims.

The director goes on to list the sums he claims be is owed under the deal, including design and development fees and a weekly £5,000 production fee. Mr Lynn . says that the band faxed him a letter on 14 November 1997 which "summarily terminated the Plaintiff's engagement and thereby repudiated the agreement."

THE UNDER Sheriff of London and the Under-Sheriff of Surrey are suing their own agents, Nathan & Co (Sheriffs Officers) Ltd, over a series of disputed payments.

The Sheriffs are seeking an "account of all monies received by the Defendant since 1st April 1996 as agent for the First Plaintiff on behalf of the High Sheriff of Greater London and as agent for the Second Plaintiff on behalf of the High Sheriff of Surrey." The writ demands the payment of all money received by Nathan & Co when it acted as agent for the Sheriffs and which it has not already handed over to them. The Sheriffs have launched their legal

action through Jacobsens, a law firm based in The Outer Temple, London. RADCLIFFES, a law firm based in West-

minster, London, is seeking "a declaration as to the true ownership of the sum of US\$7,312,414.29 standing to the credit of client account No. 11191306 in the name of the Plaintiff at Lloyds Bank, Butler Place branch, Caxton Street, Westminster, London."

Radcliffes has named nine defendants in the writ, including The Woodborough Corporation of the Isle of Man; Newport Enterprises of Antwerp; Trans Capital of New Zealand; JSW of Texas; Growth Management Group of North Carolina; The Sovereign Group of the Cayman Islands, and Jean-Yves Henault of Brive, France

Granada surges ahead on a nerve-wracking day

MARKET REPORT



PETER THAL LARSEN

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course yesterday. While City trading screens hyrched from red to blue and back to red again in one of the most nerve-wracking Fridays of recent years, shares in Granada, where the famously emptydiaried Mr Robinsoo is chairman, burst through the £10 barrier for the first time. They ended the day up 39p at

Of course, it's just a few weeks since Mr Robinson was taking flack from instida's annual geoeral meeting. He and his fellow directors inpaying themselves for the inconvenience of reducing the length of their service con-

GERRY Robinsoo must have da's share price bad much to for their positions in the de- these constraints. Now, bad a jolly day on the golf do with Mr Robinson's un- rivatives market. doubted managerial skills.

cent stake.

Savoy's 'A' shares surged later. 255p to 1750p, valuing the group at £489m and Granada's share - a relic of the 1996 takeover of Forte which Mr tutional investors at Grana- a cool £333m. Analysts movement barrier. reckon the Wontner family, which controls Savoy through curred the City's wrath after non-voting shares, could played out to a lesser or squeeze a bid of more than

switch - exactly 14 minutes who's doing it.

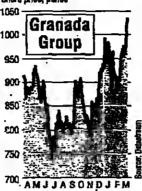
The swing was so violent that the entire index was suspended as shares in gas distributor BG broke through Robinson is keen to sell - at the 20 per cent share price

Yesterday was the first time this ritual, which is greater extent on a quarterly 1800p if an auction develops. basis, was conducted under The bid action was over- the Stock Exchange's new tracts in the case of a shadowed by a frantic quarter order book. And while in the

traders can move the index a the Footsie looked like it mended the shares when they The FTSE 100 March long way by entering small Rather, the television and futures contract expired be- trades for the entire index at hotels conglomerate basked in tween 10:10 and 10:30 and in inflated or deflated prices, the news that US bidders are that time the market hurched and execute them all at once circling The Savoy Group, to 5880.9, down 117 points on -moving the index a long way

owners of the eponymous the day, before smashing without putting up much caphotel on London's Strand, in through the 6,000 barrier and ital Even better, trades are at the smaller end of the vestors "await the major which Granada has a 68 per hitting 6,105.8 - a 225-point anonymous so no one knows

Share Spotlight share price, pence



would stay above 6,000. A were below £8 at the beginweak opening on Wall Street, ning of February, moved its however, dragged it down in stance to "add" from "buy". the afternoon and it ended the Analyst Mike Hilton said that day off 41.6 points at 5956.3. after a 30 per cent rise the Bid activity flared up again shares were high enough as in-

market. Vero, making boxes strategie restructuring of the for mobile phooe base sta- group." The shares slipped tions, added 3.5p to 122.5p after the company revealed it bad received an informal offer at a level not significantly higher than the current market price". The company was floated at 220p just over

two years ago. AIM-quoted Chemical equally short and impleasant stock market life, gained 31.5p to 125p after announcing it was in bid talks. The

After all the excitement the broker which recom-

13.5p to 989.5p. A "buy" recommendation from broker SBC Warburg belped food retailers Somerfield, up 33p at 331.5p, and Kwik Save, 36p better at 381.5p, as the two declared

their merger unconditional. The departure of Chris Design, which has had an Oakley, the former Midlands Independent Newspapers chief executive, left Mirror Group down 9p at 196p.

Engineering consultancy WS Atkins hit a new peak of TAKING STOCK

PROTECTIVE clothing maker UK Safety crashed 2.75p to 4.75p after a management buyout vehicle, backed by venture capitalists Alchemy, tabled a 2.5p cash offer. The bid, which was made at a 67 per cent discount to the prevailing market price, values the company at just £1.01m. UK Safety, which is a major supplier of boots to the British Army, has had a rough time since floating at 50p in 1994. It currently only trades courtesy of a credit line from Bank of Scotland. Having failed to secure a better offer, the independent directors are unanimously recommending

AIM-QUOTED Computerland, providing comparter services, firmed 5p to 235p after unveiling two acquisitions, to be funded by a placing and open offer at 185p

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however, Mr Robinso once again find hims subject of fund manag fections.	n may the morning in which market- risk of the makers shamelessly pushed wante	d to move the index - 750 do so in full view of one in the market - the	Pearson, the Financial Times to Baywatch group,	doubled in value since last	to raise £2.96m. Computerland, which floated last September at a share price of 100p, has been one of the junior market's best performing shares this year.	
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Jaunt in search of an elusive joint



A secret location:

Where our hungry hero, after a long and eventful hunt for banned beef on the bone. has to decide whether or not to consume it

playing oo the taxi-driver's radio. It door my unnameable host was waiting. He greeted me eveo before I of Lord Willoughby de Broke, who could utter the password I had He led me up a narrow staircase to an upper room full of solid antiques avail; the Government ignored the and gilded mirrors. At its ceotre was vote). I moved on again, casting out a long polished mahogany table, set messages in all directions. Then es. This was the place. I handed over ing for. A voice I did not recognise confirmation.

I had arrived to the lair of the senot been easy to track them down. massive 70lh baron of beef which has been traditional there since managing director, Charles Boyd. "We're a pressure group, not a dining club." He offered me a Backbone beefeaters to a man. badge, an executive stress-ball in the shape of a cow, and a copy of his new poster - "Should it be illegal to enjoy an occasional joint?" - which he hopes to place in the nation's butch-

ers' shop-windows. But, no, I wanted to meet those most stalwart of Englishmen, those who could stomach anything except

WALTON'S Crown Imperial was Beef-oo-the-Bone Scieoce and Industry Forum proved no more proseemed suitably patriotic in a red-ductive. It turned out to be another blooded English sort of way. At the respectable lobbying coalitioo to be launched oext week under the aegis led the peers' revolt in which the been preparing: "Hearts of Oak". House of Lords demanded that the beef-oo-the-ban be revoked. (To on with silver and tall-stemmed glass- came the phone call I had been waitmy bottle of Gevrey-Chambertin in asked whether I wanted access to the hard-core meat. I did. A tryst was made. The time and the place, of crei beef-on-the-bone eaters. It had course, were secret. (I nearly blew it on the night when I alighted from I had begun at Butcher's Hall, the the taxi and asked two patrolling poheadquarters of the Backbooe Par- licemeo for directions; they courty, which the City's leading catering teously offered to escort me, firm, Chester Boyd, founded ear- inquiring whether there was somelier this year to fight the regulations thing interesting oo there that that now prevent it from serving the night). I shook them off with faint excuses and ten minutes later was in the upper room where the table AD975. "No, it's not us," said its was laid for a group of dissidents who included a butcher, a chef, a QC, two solicitors, a scieotist and a vet -

There were opening pleasantries over the smoked haddock and Chablis but this was mere foreplay. Even before the plates from the first course were cleared the door warning the inquiry that the Gov- less risk now," opened and a four-boned wing-rib of heef - the prime part of the sirloin - was borne in by a liveried flunkey. The momeot of truth had authority. So I moved on. But the arrived. No one can accuse me of claimed, were probably much high-



an hors' d'oeuvre I had earlier been to the BSE inquiry where Dr Richard Lacey, the professor of clinical microhiology at Leeds University, and the Jeremiah of the beef industry, had been giving evidence. Lacey was the man who predicted doom and was ignored. Yet every measure he had demanded to combat the crisis had been implemented, though in each case, only years

ernment was continuing its history of "fabrication", "suppression", and "serious omission" over BSE. The true figures on new cases, he

to sound like a bad idea. I approached the wispy-haired professor during the coffee break for a more accurate risk assessmeot. "There can't be one," he said bluntlv. "We just don't have the information." Lacey does not himself eat beef: "there are alternatives," he said, curtly. "But it is infinitely less dangerous now than it was before. after he had recommended it. When . The beef-on-the-booe ban came . I arrived he was in the middle of too late. It's pointless. There's far

> So what was his message to the clandestine diners? "Everyone has the occasional cigar, A'd be an-

oot being open-minded. By way of er than was being admitted, My ooyed." I thought about him as the market," said the butcher. "Some forthcoming dinner was beginning great joint of beef was set upon the 83 per cent of meat is sold from sutable. "What is it?" asked the butcher. "Aberdeen Angus cross," said the chef. He began to carve succulent slices. The meat was delectably red to the bottom of the slice, not surrounded by a circle of browned meat, as it is with a boneless joint. "Off-the-bone joints are less juicy, less tender, more shrunken," he explained. "On the bone the heat comes from one side only. It improves the tenderness. With heat the fibres in the muscle contract and stretched, which tenderises the want to. If I was told I couldn't have cent of beef was sold on the bone.

permarkets, almost all off the bone. But with high-class butchers 15 to 20 per cent of our trade is on the booe. The demand comes from foodies, traditionalists and from ethnic groups, Koreans and

Caribbeans, in my case." The conversation turned to the law and whether or not the defence was likely to succeed in the case of Jim Sutherland, the Scottish hotelier who has become the first person prosecuted under the Beef hunch. The bone keeps them Bones Regulations 1997. When he comes to court on 6 April he will arthe right to poison themselves if they-meat." Before the ban only 5 per gue, said a lawyer, that there were ported," I blustered. But I smoked irregularities in the consultation "But it was the quality end of the process the Ministry of Agriculture

should have followed before bringing the regulations into force.
"Quite right," said the hutcher,
"the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders received the regulations on a Friday afternooo and had to submit a response by the Monday."

The first plate of glistening pink beef was placed before me. Just before the dinner I had phoned Jim Sutherland in Scotland, I had been wary of these boney beefeaters. The stuff they had written in the right-wing oewspapers was all wild libertarian stuff about blood sports, the Countryside March, Britain's noble history, the riots in Edinburgh after the 1725 tax upon malt and what we fought two world wars for.

But Sutherland was a measured. chap who had the grace to acknowledge that the right to be able to chose to eat beef on the bone was relatively insignificant in the scale of human freedoms but none the less worth sticking out for. "If these regulations had been brought in when the scares were at their height I wouldn't have opposed them," he said. "But at the time they were introduced it seemed on the Governmeot's own figures that the BSE epidemic was all but passed. In that circumstance there was no manifest danger. It all seems an unnecessary restriction on the liberty of the individual. If we all went through life assuming the worst, we'd oever do anything," he added, "Government scientists admit, using a series of pessimistic assumptions, that there is about a 1 in 1.2 hillioo chance you'd contract CJD from beef oo the bone. You've more chance of being bit by a meteorite. I think you'll he safe enough eating it." So I did.

I even ate the banana hrulée afterwards which, loaded with cream, presumably fell into the category of the 10,000 things which Jim Sutherland had warned me I did every day without thinking and yet which were actuarially more dangerous

than eating beef. But then - as the booes were discreetly taken away in a plastic carrier - I produced my cigar case and offered them round. There were no takers, "Genuine Habanas, band-imalone. Now, evidently, I had gone



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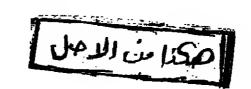
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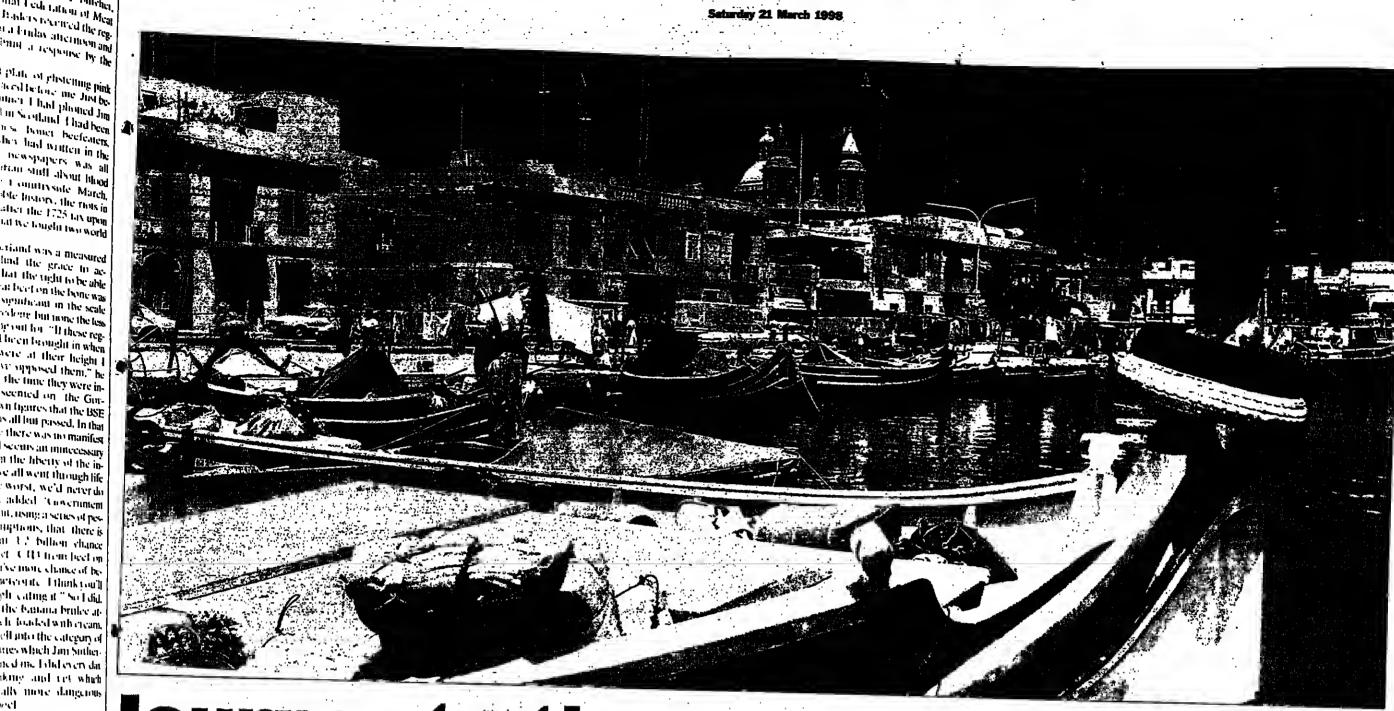
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IME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT

Saturday 21 March 1998



ourney to the centre of the Med

In Malta you cross paths with many civilizations - and their relics.

*Cleo Paskal gets lost among the island's catacombs while

failing to find a bowling alley

or followed before bring.

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"Well, how about going to see some catacombs?" suggested my pal Gino. It was not the sort of lazy, late-afternoon activity I was used to - but this was Malta, a country so choked with history that it is easier to find an ancient, important grave site than, say, a bowling alley. And I didn't really feel like bowl-

We trundled along one of Malta's dusty back roads in Gino's Jeep. In the fading light I could see lassic Maltese scenery: earth, shrubs, low limestooe nouses, all in various shades of yellowing brown. Reyond, constantly clutching at the beaches and cliffs, he dark blue sea. It was oddly timeless. And

Gino suddenly pulled over to the side of the road. We're here.

I looked around. Earth, shrubs, low limestone

Gino got out and I followed him across a field, p a low ridge and through someone's back yard. ust beyond it, the side of a hill had been carved way, showing several openings into the rock face. ino went into one of them.

It was starting to get dark. I began to wonder ractly how much I really knew about Gino, the faltese cousin of a good friend from London. At is cousin's request, Gino had offered to be my guide. but, as far as I remembered, luring me into tombs t night hadn't been part of the deal.

"You coming?" he shouted, his voice echoing in-The opening was a low doorway. I stepped over

the threshold and down into the sunken chamber. I was in a hallway, with alcoves on either side. Some were too dark to see into, but the others were unquestionably designed to hold bodies.

There were waist-high slabs and central fire pits for visitors who wanted to spend a cold winter evening in the company of the dear departed. It was ancient and eerie but strangely welcoming a reminder of a time when life and death weren't so far apart.

Gino pointed out details. From carvings on the walls, you could tell that the site had been used by Christians and Jews, together. Most of the catacomb was accessible, but some of the other openings into the rock face were barred.

Soon it was too dark to see any more, and we returned to the Jeep.

I was amazed. Given how interesting the site was, why was there no security? Why wasn't it mentioned in guidebooks? Why was there no information available on site? "Welcome to Malta," said Gino, by way of explanation.

Because of its strategic position, everybody who was anybody has controlled Malta. The Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Castilians, Knights of St John, French and, yes, the British - have all left their mark, literally. You can't find a more condensed and varied collection of archaeological sites.

That leaves little room for modern Malta to manoenvre. Every new house, road, factory and farm is potentially destroying something of unique historical importance. Along the way towards the fut-



ure, bits of the past are sacrificed. This catacomb, an eddy in the current of time, isn't important enough

So what are the Maltese saving? Well, unlike Gino, many of the Maltese who grew up playing hideand-seek on World Heritage sites don't realise their unique inheritance. And those who do realise it wonder why their nation of 350,000 should have to shoulder alone the financial burden of maintaining sites of world importance. As a result, in spite of some devoted Maltese and

an increasing number of supportive foreigners, the archaeological sites of Malta are in a precarious state. One of the most famous, the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum, an enormous underground burial complex carved out of the rock, has already been closed to the public after tragic damage caused by decades of mismanagement.

But there are still more than enough mindblowing open sites to here you away from the beaches. After my outing with Gino, I went out of my way to visit as many as possible. Their accessibility and

range became addictive, and soon my day in Malta All aboard: Malta's living fishing heritage, wasn't complete unless I had seeo a temple, a above; and prehistoric remains at Tarxien catacomb, or a beautiful piece of prehistoric temple, left

The most impressive for me was Ggantija Temples, on Gozo. From the car park, I walked through farm fields along a dirt track until suddenly, on a slight rise to the right, there they were. Two enormous Neolithic twin temples, 1,000 years older than the pyramids at Giza. Constructed from massive blocks of limestone, some weighing more than 50 tons, they made Stooehenge look like a random collection of pebbles.

The temple roofs were gone, allowing a clear view of the floor plan. Designed to honour a voluptuous fertility goddess with wide hips and large bosom, they looked, from above, roughly like a drawing of two snowmen side by side, the bottom circle representing the hips, the middle circle the breasts, and the top one the head.

As with all Maltese sites, you could walk right into the temples. I let my imagination run riot, smelling the scorched flesh while looking at the burnt stones in the animal sacrifice area, listening for the whispers of guidance at the oracle hole, pretending to pour liquid offerings (I chose water rather than blood) into the libation holes.

Other temples offered different imaginary fodder. Tarxien Temples, on Malta itself, have astounding carvings. Mnajdra Temples, also on Malta, feature solar alignment, making a huge prehistoric calendar. Hagar-Qim's towering reconstructed façade makes you feel the weight of belief.

Hopefully, as more tourists tear themselves away from the bikinis on the beaches to see the volupmous goddesses of the temples, the Maltese Government will find the momentum and the money to make the country's past part of its future. And with any luck, the next time I see Gino, we will still be able to creep around the catacombs rather than gn bowling.

Photograph: Britstock-IFA/ Habel and Robe Harding Picture Library



Making for Malta Cleo Paskal travelled to Malta using some spare

For fare-paying passengers, Air Malta (0181-785 3177) flies from several UK airports to Malta. Fares from Gatwick and Heathrow for the summer start at £189 including tax; departures from Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow are slightly more expensive. You may find lower fares through an Air Malta subsidiary, Malta Direct Travel (0181-785 3233). GB Airways, an affiliace of British Airways (0345 22211), operates daily from Gatwick

The Malta Tourist Office is at 36-38 Piccadilly London WIV OPP (0171-292 4900).

NSIDE PARIS

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RUGBY UNION Eight who changed the game/I8 Jamaica's jamboree/22 England's Lion king/26

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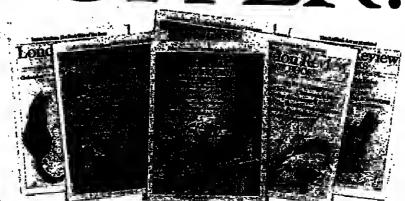
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London Review OF BOOKS



SIMON **CALDER**

If you were planning to travel to France yesterday, you may have found nut the hard way that duty-free sales within the European Union are due to end in July 1999. French ferry workers blockaded Calais and the entrance to the Channel Tunnel in printesi ai the EU proposal, saying their jobs are threatened.

They are, no doubt, partly correct. Some ferry services across the Channel will probably end wheo Brussels closes the loophole next summer. And, in the full knowledge that this will inflame the powerful produty free lobby, I wholeheartedly applaud the EU's move.

I say this as a European citizen who has happily smoked and drunk for most of his adult life, but finds the crazy economics of cross-Channel links indefensible.

On a Eurostar train from Kent to Calais, as with any intra-EU rail service, there is no opportunity to buy duty-free goods. Yet on Le Shuttle, the car-carrying service through the Channel Tunnel, I am eocouraged to buy alcohol and tobacco at well below the usual price. In a single market, this is as ridiculous as being able to avoid duty on a journey between Coventry and Cardiff.

The position on the ferries is even more absurd, Earlier this year, the culmination of irrational pricing was reached when Hoverspeed began paying motorists and their passengers to travel between Dover and Calais. The company could drive a high-speed ferry through the economics of transport purely because it sells booze and fags at such high profit margins.

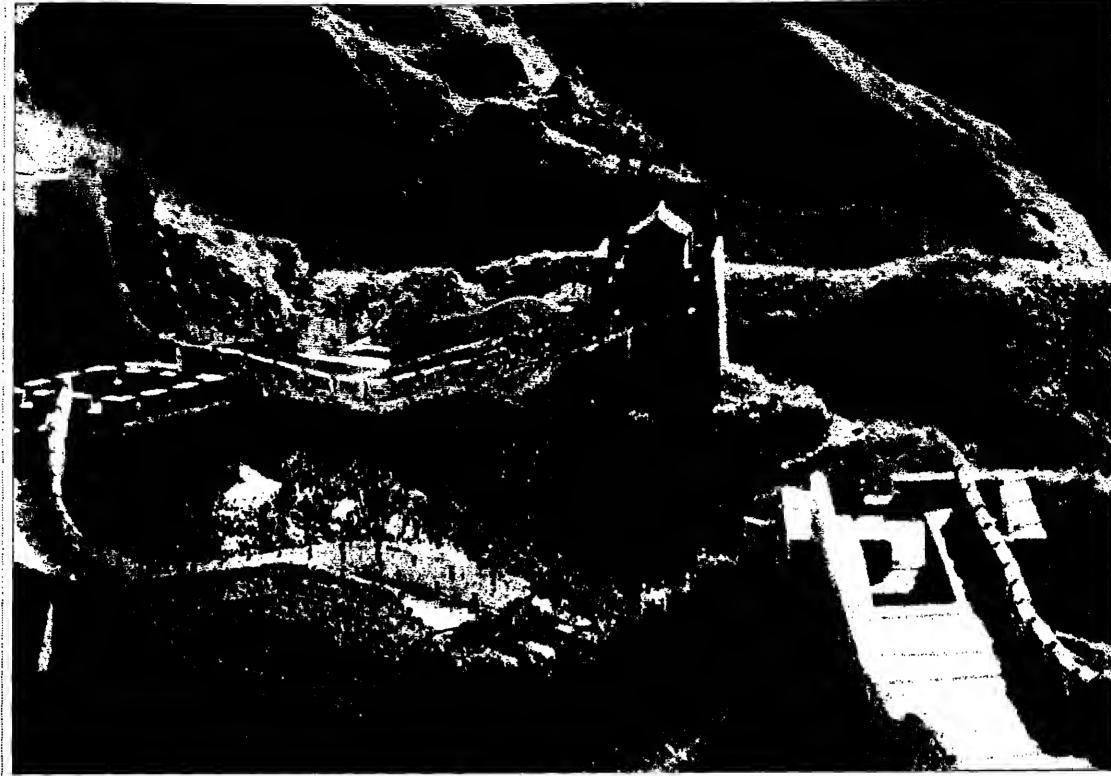
People spend so much oo alcohol and tobacco that the shipping companies can make more from duty-free sales than from ticket reveoues. It is worthwhile burning expensive fuel for the benefit of those who have oo interest in France be-

So who is paying for this? The ferry companies, and their allies in the Duty-Free Confederation such as the airlioes, airports and tobacco companies, like to portray duty-free sales as a victimless perk. In reality, of course, you and I are bearing the cost. The value that the Treasury would otherwise earn . from the drink and cigarettes is effectively being transferred to the shopper, who then splits the profits with the operator.

The duty-free lobby says that this is a flawed argument: many of the sales would simply not take place if duty-frees were abolished. But in the case of tobacco, this is surely a good thing? The high tax on cigarettes is explained by its deterrent value, and the need to contribute to the costs of health care for smokers.

I defend the rights of the smoker, but equally society has a right to expect the smoker to bear the consequences of his or her actions. The duty-free lobby would have us believe that they are doing the world a favour by selling a dangerous drug : cheaply. If ending duty-free . sales helps save the life of just one person who would otherwise die from a smoking-related illness, that alone surely justifies the action.

For the next 15 months, the hot air emitted by the Duty-Free Confederation will be matched only by the fumes pouring from ferries full of booze-cruisers. From 1 July next year, though, I hope shipping companies will get back to their real business. the safe carriage of people and



Mother and child revolution

Family travels: often there's a Great Wall between parents and their offspring. But Louise Jury and her mother enjoyed a cultural reunion on a trip to China

You learn a lot about other people and their families when you announce you're going on boliday with your mum. Some friends express amazement that you could contemplate such a thing, as if the prospect of travel en famille appals them. Others appear impressed by such signs of parental pluckiness. All that worried my mum was

whether I could conceivably have a good time with her. "Are you sure?" she asked repeatedly. "Of course," I said - and we did. The choice of trip was essential.

We wanted it to be somewhere completely different from Britain, a hol-

iday of a lifetime for someone who has had few opportunities to travel. But there were factors to bear in mind. We wanted to avoid places toohot, as my mum is a fair-skinned red-bead and inclined to keel over in the sun. We preferred somewhere with ancient mins and grand sights to keep us busy, rather than beaches and bars

Although my mother is quite young, I contemplated some of the less comfortable journeys in my travel history and decided that some of them might not be appropriate in this particular case: overnight public bus trips half-way across Turkey, with the inevitable dodgy tummy and a bus driver inclined to let his hands wander all over you if yoo misguidedly sit behind him; a tiring journey to Auschwitz in a train with a failed heating system, one particularly freezing

My mum deserved a more conventionally enjoyable time than that, I thought. Missing a train and having to kip down in a station may be fine for the hardy traveller, but it was not the kind of ordeal I thought she should have to endure. And I wanted it to be something extra special for her, a holiday to enjoy and to re-

Glancing through a selection of the brochures, I quickly ruled out some of the dodgy options. Egypt was slightly risky in the wake of Lower and :

Fve been there appears Sri Lankage with temperatures rarely the bing in der 80 degrees; and the language ple of Australia speak English (solution). of) and most look much too Western. er a lot of thought and deliberation, we made up our minds. We plumped for China.

Although it is slowly opening up to the West, many seasoned adventurers of my acquaintance have oot explored that far. Those who have been there spoke of the nightmares of Chinese hureaucracy for independent travellers. All things considered, joining an organised party seemed a good bet.

We were immediately welcomed into the arms of a group of people mostly in their 50s and 60s, with the odd honeymoon couple and widowed 71-year-old thrown in. Although most of them were couples, our mother and daughter combination fitted in perfectly.

And, as I anticipated, my mum and I got on just fine. The only conversation even approaching a dispute will be familiar to anyone who also has whatever you would like to do, completely selfless and overly-rea-



Good relations: China's umbilical, the Great Wall (top); Louise Jury and her mother on the wall (above) Photograph (top): Xianhua

sonable parents. "What would you like to do?" I'd ask. "Oh, I don't mind,

Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the rest of China's innumerable treasures, this slight note of disharmony mattered not at all as we spent our time revelling in the sights of the China ex-

The itinerary often started with leaving the botel at 8.30am and not returning before 9.30pm or 10pm, just the kind of schedule we wanted in a country we might never return to.

So my mum and I puffed our way to a high point on the Great Wall. where she took in the view, and I decided to trek a little further to where the restoration runs out and the wall begins to crumble. We bartered for matching "Tve Been To The Great Wall of China" T-shirts, hers in English, mine, for the hell of

In Shanghai, she looked alarmed Mum replies. "Well, we could do X, as I clambered on to the high harbour tours, and a visit to the Peking Opera.

Yor Z." "Whatever you think, I'll fit wall to take a picture of the froot. At in with you. It's all new to me," she the sight of the Terracotta Warriors says, wanting to be 100 per cent agree- at Xian we both gazed in stunned le and totally reasonable. Just oc-amazement at the massed ranks of life-size clay soldiers. In Suzhou, a ainst the wall under the pres-. beautiful town of gardens and canals, the decision-making and her we collapsed in hysterical giggles as two elderly Chinese women tried to Yet, of course, as most of our sell us hideous live and wriggling chedule was packed with visiting shrimp-like things. Back in Beijing, we caught a cah downtown together for a well-deserved, and enjoyable, night out with the locals.

whe whe

My mum says she would oever have thought of going to China on her own, so was thrilled when I suggested we go. It was even better that I took all the hassle of making the arrangements out of ber hands (oot as selfless as it seems as I have done far more travelling than she has): "It was great, because you looked after me and did everything," she says.

Which, I'm afraid to say, is a very easy thing to do when your mum's as

Louise Jury and her mother paid £1,495 each through Travelsphere Holidays (01858 410456) for two weeks in China. The price included transport, accommodation (mainly four-star hotels), meals and guided

RED CHANNEL

Surcharges in Slovakia

"The system of charging for baggage oo Slovakian puhlic transport appears to be a nationwide obsession; we were even charged a small baggage fee on our Eurolines bus home although we had return tickets, including free baggage transport.

We were caught out on Bratislava's trams going to the bus station. Having virtuously purchased and stamped our own tickets, we were dismayed when an inspector demanded two tickets for our packs.

"Because we were suspicious about the fine, he

took us to the main vending kiosk outside the station, where there was a tiny chart indicating a charge of 3 krona [about 5 pence] for each large bag. With nur passports confiscated, we had to go to the police station, where they demanded a whopping 1,400 krona fine [over £25].

"Evectually we beat them down to half that amount, but it still hit us hard in the pocket and was an unpleasant experience.

Letter from Sarah O'Mahony and Daniel Stuckey, in 'Planet Talk', the free newsletter from Lonely Planet (0171-428 4800).

GREEN CHANNEL:

As Science Week draws to a close, you may have come to realise that science is much more than Bunsen burners and test tubes. Perhaps inevitably, it has even become

incorporated into holidays.

Several organisations organise working holidays with a large scientific and conservation component. The Earthwatch Institute is one of the largest funders of scientific field research in the world. But as well as having real scientists . working nn its projects around the world, ordinary non-scientists with just a healthy supply of money,

curiosity and willingness to work can take part in their scientific trips.

Join an Earthwatch team (which costs between £400 and £2,000 for an average two-week expedition), and you can choose from projects world-wide, such as working with an Indonesian scientist to introduce solar technology to villages in Lombok island, East Bali.

Coral Cay Conservation is another organisation for the casual amateur scientist, who can also bask in the waters of beautiful coral atolis. CCC volunteers pay between £650 for two weeks and £2,550 for two months. Work involves scuba-diving to cooduct survey work on the reefs of Turneffe Atoll, in Belize, for instance --carefully guided by marine scientists. All information will be used to establish a management plan for the atoll, with the aim of . protecting its precious marine life. There are also

and Borneo. For an "alternative" scientific holiday, why not Wwoof? Working Weekends on Organic Farms, or Wwoofing, is an increasingly popular cheap way of

projects in the Philippines

travelling and learning about all things organic. In exchange for providing labour. Wwoofers get firsthand experience of organic techniques, healthy meals, and a place to lay their sleeping-bags. You can Wwoof for a weekend or for several mooths, in the UK and about 50 other countries. Wwoofing is also proof that a science holiday does not have to empty your wallet. A subscription

payment of £10 for one or two people travelling together lets you work anywhere in Britain and

southern Europe, and allows

you access to information about Wwoofing worldwide.

Earthwatch Institute, 57 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HJ (01865 311600) http://www.earthwatch.org E-mail: info@earthwatch.org

Coral Cay Conservation, 154 Clapham Park Road, London SW4 7DE (0171 498 6248), www.coralcay.org E-mail: ccc@coralcay. demon.co.uk

Wwoof, PO Box 2675, Lewes, BN7 IRB (01273 476286).

Sue Wheat



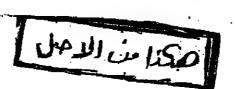
Now you can afford to take the

whole squad to France this summer.





Supersaver bookings must be made 1 day in advance and by the 31st March 1996.



hours on the Seine

Get to the heart of Paris in the spring by exploring its main artery. Natasha Edwards offers a riverbound guide to the city

> Double room 1,230FF-1,385FF Not quite on the Seine, but

> > sant hostel accommodation

particulier (from 125FF for a bed

.... on a Bateau Mouche (00 331

40 76 99 99), the largest of the

tour boats that chug up and

down the Seine. A one-hour trip will show you most of the city's main sights. Take in the Eiffel

Tower across the river as you

past the Trocadéro and the cir-

cular Maison de la Radio on the

Right Bank. Catch a glimpse of

Passy - this now rather snooty

part of Paris was still a rustic vil-

lage when Balzac lived here in

the 19th century, it was origin-

ally a spa noted for the curative

powers of its springs. Many

Parisians perversely preferred

the dubious delights of drink-

ing the water of the Seine (one

theory to explain this being a

confusion between the words

Seine and saine - meaning

As the boat passes the nar-

row Allée des Cygnes island,

look out for the Statue of Lib-

was sculpted by a Frenchman -

Auguste Bartholdi - as a gift to

The boat turns round here

and heads upstream to take in

several of the city's greatest

healthy).

New York

Boats head off downstream

board at Pont de l'Alma.

single room).

Why go now?
The Seine is the lifeblood of Paris: it is not simply its historic great for those on student budheart, where the first settlement gets, the MIDE hostel Le Fourcy was founded 2,000 years ago; it (00 33 1 42 74 23 45) at 6 rue is also the focus of a new Paris, de Fourcy in the Marais offers with the fast-being-built areas of Bercy and at the oew Bib- in a lovely 17th-century hotel liothèque Nationale in the east. Besides, as the song says, "I love in a dormitory to 198FF for a Paris in the springtime ...". ...

Beam down

Eurostar (0345 303030) from London Waterloo and Ashford to Gare du Nord costs £69 return if you go midweek and stay away a Saturday night; £89 if you leave on a Friday. For these fares you need to book three days in advance. An unrestricted ticket costs £179.

For specimen fares on some of the many air routes from the UK to Paris, the following airlines were called and asked for quotes departing the UK on 3 April and returning 6 April: Air France (0181-742 6600) from Birmingham £169.40; British Midland (0345 554554) or British Airways (0345 222111) from Heathrow £112.50; BA from Manchester £123.50.

Get your bearings You should have no problem

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Add to the second

finding your way here. The Seine runs through the centre of Paris, dividing the city both physically and psychologically between Rive Gauche (Left erty (reduced size) sticking up Bank) and Rive Droite (Right at the end, a reminder that she Bank), with the fle de la Cité and Ile-St-Louis swimming in the middle. Numerous bridges link the two banks, and though some sections resemble an autoroute, cobbled verges mean that you can walk beside the river in much of central Paris.

For acrial views, Métro line 6 crosses the Seine above ground both west (Pont Bir-Hakeim) and east (Pont de Bercy), while line 5 crosses the Seine at Gare d'Austerlitz; or head for the riverside departmeot store La Samaritaine, which has an open-air viewing terrace oo the 11th floor.

Among the antique shops of quai Voltaire is the old-fashioned Hôtel du Quai Voltaire (00 33 1 42 61 50 91) at No 19, where Oscar Wilde, Sibelius and Pissarro stayed. A double room, 690FF, could be noisy; soundproofing is to come next year.

One botel where you certainly won't see the Seine, but you will be right in the centre of it, is the Hotel du Jeu de Paume (00 33 1 43 26 14 18) at 54 rue St-Louis-l'Île, the main street of the aristocratic Île St-Louis. The hotel was originally a jeu de paume or real tennis court, built in the 1630s, and was brilliantly converted a decade ago. The beamed court is now a dramatic, galleried breakfast room, while the bedrooms offer plenty of creature comforts.



the Right. Lunch on the run Stop off at Le Railye (01 43 54 29 65), a rough-and-tumble riverside café-tabac at 11 quai de la Tournelle, with an authentic Fifties mirror and a plastic interior crammed with Tintin memorabilia. There's nothing fancy here, but it is a true local in the heart of Paris. Sit in the

smoky inside, or outside at a

pavement table, for an inex-

pensive beer or glass of wine,

sandwiches or a hot plat du jour

Left Bank; the Grand Palais,

Bulleries gardens and Louvre on

golden dome of Les Invalides route, you are not short of culand the Musée d'Orsay oo the ture, but instead head for the turrets of the Coociergerie (1 quai de l'Horloge (00 33 1 53 73 78 50) - the Paris equivalent of the Tower of London - for an insight into French history at the city's first royal palace and later Revolutionary prison. You enter straight into the echosy, Gothiovaulted halls of the Salle des Gardes and Salle des Gens d'Armes, built in the early 14th century by Philippe Le Bel, leading to a medieval kitchen with massive fireplaces. Later the palace became a prison, at its most notorious under the Terror wheo thousands of victims of the Revolution passed

HIGH ROAD

£6.95 for adults and £5.25 for under 15s.

money clearly helped; the poor slept on straw crowded in communal cells, while the well-off Shop in a box

give a pretty good idea of what

lingering here involved, but

noire crime oovel or that old Byrrh advertisement

Soar away to the sauropods. Next Friday, the world's largest dimosaur exhibition opens at the

Philadelphia Civic Center. Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000) is offering a fare from London. Birmingham or Manchester for £197. Admission to the exhibition is an extra \$15 (£9).

Alternatively, make do with Dinosaurs: the Next Generation at the Royal Armouries Museum

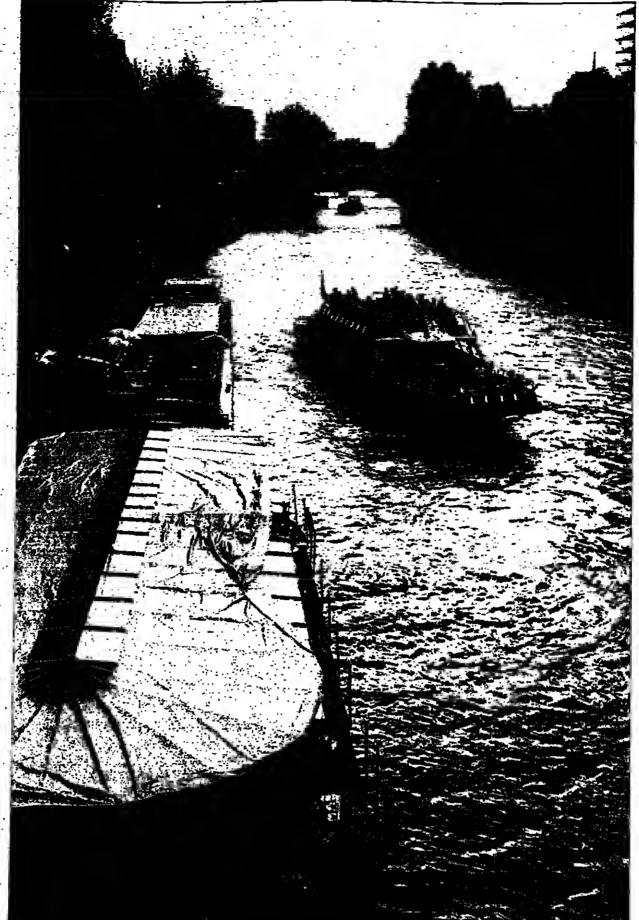
in Leeds (0990 106666). Admission to the special event and the permanent attractions costs

double-spiral column. Bracing brunch

> brunch on La Calife (00 33 1 43 54 50 04). Brunch is still viewed

could pay for a private cell and such hunnies as a desk and bed. For quintessential riverside shopping go to the bouquinistes - the second-hand book, print and postcard dealers identified by their bottle-green boxes attached to the parapets of the quays. They stretch along both sides of the Seine in central Paris, perfect for buying a série

Back on board for a leisurely



such as steak and chips or rabbit in mustard.

Cultural afternoon With the Louvre, Musée d'Orsights: the Eiffel Tower, the orn- say, Institut du Monde Arabe ate Pont Alexandre III, the and Palais de Chaillot all en

here on their way to the guillotine, among them Marie-Antoinette, Dantog and Robespierre. In the Chapelle des Girondins are Marie-Antoinette's crucifix and a guillotine

blade. The reconstructed cells

An aperitif

Take your apero on a bost while heading upstream for a the Ile de la Cite (left) slice of oew Paris, where a little Photograph: UPPA nucleus of floating music bars has moored on quai de la Gare as an American import, but it in front of the vast Bibliothèque Nationale François Mitterrand, the oew oatlooal From I April, the barge will be library. Much the most romantic, and the most incongruous, is the Guioguette Pirate, a 125FF all-you-can-eat meal inthree-masted Chinese junk that sailed over to Paris from the Far East a few years ago. There's live music oo deck most evenings.

Sightseeing boats on the

the artery of Paris (above);

is catching on, and this rather

sophisticated barge shows why.

oo its summer moorings on quai Montebello, where the

cindes a Mediterranean-tinged

array of salads, freshly baked

bread, blini, scrambled eggs

Sunday afternoon is the perfect

and smoked salmon.

A step back in time

Make for St-Germain-des-Prés moment to explore the timeless and the extremely successful Les lle St-Louis. This enclave re-Bookinistes (00 33 1 43 25 45 94) mains much as it was when first at 53 quai des Grandsbuilt up in the 17th century, with Augustins, the best of five modelegant town houses and treeerately priced offshoots run by lined quays. A visit is not comsuperchef Guy Savoy. The plete without an ice-cream from dining-room is chic and con-Berthilloo, at 31 rue St-Louistemporary - amber walls, wacky eo-l'île (closed during the school holidays), Paris's most modern mirror frames - and the famous ice-cream maker, which modern French cooking is original and stylishly presented. ofteo draws a quene way down the street.

Sunday morning, go to church Notre Dame on Île de la Cité is, of course, one of the most visited sights in France, but two of Paris's finest medieval churches are also nearby, in the Latin Quarter.

The little church of St-Julien-le-Pauvre overlooks the Seine and Notre Dame from a small garden. The outside is rather dilapidated, but the interior still has its righly decorated late-12th-century capitals among the icons-it is now used by the Greek Melchite community. St-Séverin is a late-Gothic gem, famed for its double ambulatory and unique



A plane Central America opens up next weekend, when British Airways launches a new scheduled route from Gatwick to Cancún. Mexico's biggest Caribbean resort will provide a gateway for easy access to the Yucatán Peninsula, Belize, Guatemala and elsewhere in Central America. The lead-in fare direct from the airline (0345 222111) on the first flight out is an Apex ticket at £648 (inc tax), but lower fares are available through discount agents. Next weekend's Time Off will feature a report oo Cancún itself.

You could be travelling to or from Inverness for next to oothing providing you are old enough. Great (or should that be Grey?) North Eastern Railway is offering the over-fifties vastly reduced fares on the line from Loodon King's Cross through York to Newcastle and Scotland. The return journey from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow or Inverness to London costs £19; call 0345 225225 for bookings.

The trick, besides being born before March 1948, is to choose your dates with care; GNER insists you travel on Tuesdays or Wednesdays only.

The only way to reach Tristan da Cunha, a speck of British territory in the south Atlantic west of South Africa, is to sail aboard RMS St Helena, which makes an annual visit to the island. It is oot cheap: flying out to Cape Town, theo speoding a fortnight at sea with no absolute guarantee of being able to land oo Tristao da Cunha, costs at least £2,600. Book through Curnow Shipping in Falmoutb (01326 211466). If this sounds too demanding in terms of time and money, you can read more about the island in Harry Ritchie's book *The Last Pink Bits*, now out in paperback (Picador, £5.99).

New Experience Holidays (01922 410909), which organises walking trips in Europe, does not mince words wheo describing the hotels it uses in the Moselle village of Alf. At the Hotel Junk, for example, you are told, the proprietor, Frau Johanna Junk, is also the local butcher: "Definitely NOT the place for vegetarians". Sadly, New Experience oo longer offers a discount for customers called Alf.

Harry Ramsden's is rapidly becoming a multinational chain of fish and chip shops. But the original version at White Cross, nine miles ourth west of Leeds, remains a tourist attraction. To keep the interest value, the restaurant is staging a series of special events. On Mooday (23 March), you can enjoy "Opera and Chips" for an all-inclusive £16.50. Book on 01943 874641.

Lamberhurst Vineyard is one of the en-route attractions in a booklet called "Country Tours", published this week by Kent Tourism. The vineyard, near Tunbridge Wells, offers wine-tasting every day except Christmas. The bibulous theme continues with the Whitbread Hop Farm, the largest group of Victorian oasthouses in the world. Another feature of the publication is a list of more than 40 pubs belooging to the Shepherd Neame brewery. You may be surprised to learn, then, that the subtitle of the booklet (price £1, from Kent Tourism, 01622 696165) is "Circular Driving Routes in the Keot Countryside".

A week from now

... Drayton Manor Park, near Tansworth in Staffordshire, opens for the summer. Shockwave, Europe's only stand-up roller-coaster, remains the main attractioo. Admissioo to the site costs £3 for adults, £2 for under-14s; a wrist band entitling you to unlimited rides all day costs £10 for adults and £7.50 for children up to 15 years. Call 01827 287979.

A month from now

... you could be riding across the Greenlandic wilderness, hauled by a team of buskies. Through Arctic Experience (01737 218800), £1,160 buys you flights via Reykjavik, five nights' accommodation. and transport in a sled driven by a professional.

A year from now

... you may experience better weather in Barbados than England's cricketers got this week. Unijet (0990 114114) offers a fortnight at the Sugar Cane Club for £699, including flights from Gatwick or Manchester. Note that the average annual precipitation in Manchester is 35in; in Barbados, rainfall is half as



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On your marks in Munich

As the pound hits its highest level against the German currency for nine years, Muthena Paul Alkazraji sees Bavaria's capital from his bike

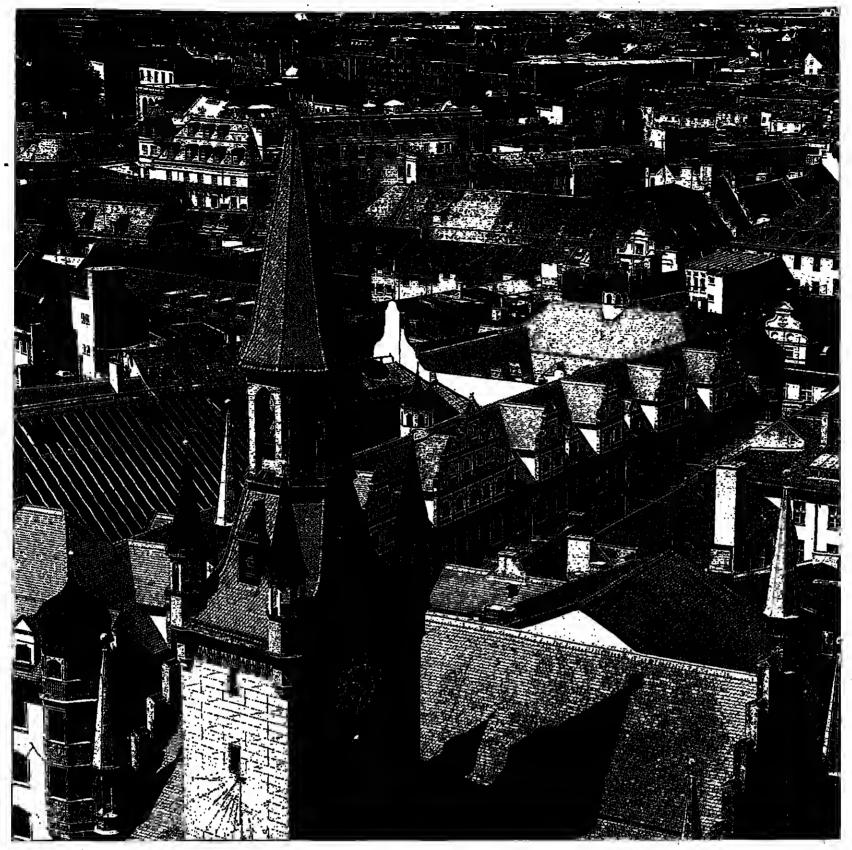
What would be Germany's contribution to the global supply of "world cities" for the 21st century? Berlin, certainly; Hamburg, probably, and, to complete the Teutonic triumvirate, only Bavaria's capital can suffice. Munich's size and stature provides the touristic gravity to attract visitors, but also presents them with a bit of a problem. How best to get around a city so vast that it already possessed three orbital. Autobahnen while the M25 was still on the drawingboard?

The 1,300km of Munich's cycle paths provide a solution, not least because they are so ceatly marked and organised. If a cyclists' traffic light says "Halt", Müncheners will obediently wait at a desolate pedestrian intersectioo until the light changes to green. An English friend living here has tried sneaking across, and beeo promptly ticked off by affrooted citizens. Giveo a modest stretch of smooth Tarmac, however, and the temptation - especially among the 100,000 students at Germany's largest university - to crank up the pedalpower is frequently surrendered to with unnerving abandon. That said, Munich's wealth of historic buildings and elegant avenues, extensive gardens and gradient-free terrain make it excellent for urban cycling.

I began my trip away from the weaving lines of cyclists in the centre of Germany's "secret capital", by the Deutsches Museum on Ludwig's Bridge. My chosen route was through leafy parkland on the east bank of the river Isar, across Luitpold Bridge, right into the English Garden, and then oorth to the park's Kleinhesseloher See.

At the start, the wooded pathways through Maximilian's Garden, across from the Deutsches Museum, give continuous, bank's-edge views of the beautiful river Isar. It flows from its Alpine source 50km south of the city, through the heart of Munich, before spilling into the Danuhe near Deggendorf. Clean, gurgling and green, it runs swift and shallow around white pebble banks and islets on which flocks of blackheaded gulls gather.

With a clear blue sky, and the Folm wind blowing in from the Alps and warming the city up, I freewheeled along the bank, under Maximilian's Bridge by the seat of the Bavarian State Parliament, and on to Friedens Angel. This golden statue of a Greek goddess, perched on a high column overlooking the river, was built in 1871 by King Ludwig II. Now known as the "fairy-



after. Ludwig apparently neglected state ing romantic castles in line with Wagnerian Haus der Kunst (House of German Art): house the Third Reich's notion of German clumps, interwoven with smooth gravel view from the temple today is absorbing.

A short spin across Luitpold Bridge mysterious watery death in Lake Stamberg. Hitler's opponents nicknamed "Weiss- ern Art. The view from the monument's base wurst" (a white sausage). This long, flat, stretches along Prinzregenten Strasse, past neoclassical gallery is truly monolithic,

German legend, he did not live happily ever the route I had decided to take next. art (meanwhile, at the nearby Hofgarten, tracks. Known as Munich's "green lung" "degenerate art" was being displayed). It it was laid out in 1879. affairs, was declared insane, and met a brought me alongside the building that is now home to the State Gallery of Mod- -- As the gravel crunched underwheel, I

the English Garden stretches for five kilo- style temple on a hillock, which draws the

took a path heading roughly in the direc-From the Haus der Kunst northwards, hon of the Monopterous, a circular, Greek-

Bavarian beauty: view over Munich, Germany's secret capital Photograph: Gavin Hellier/Robert Harding

Cyclists whip across distant gaps in the chestnut trees; the green, onion-shaped domes on the towers of the Frauenkirche top the city's skyline.

From the Monopterous, I pedalled past the park's Chinese Tower, and north-wards towards the Seehaus beergarden on the edge of the Kleinhesseloher See. This large, man-made lake is only a stone's throw from Schwabing, home of the city's once thriving artists' quarter (Kandinsky, Klee, Brecht). The beergarden made a suitable finishing-point for my trip and as I sat back to relax, water lapped at the edges of the wooden benches and tables arranged in ordered ranks under the swaying trees. Without a sandwich in my saddlebag, I considered sampling the Munich fare, but the thought of Schweinshax'n (pork knuckles) quelled the idea. It was tempting to try the macho Bavarian challenge of drinking a "mass" of beer. I settled, however, for half a litre, which, in a robust glass mug, seemed heavy enough, although it falls pathetically short of a local record: one muscular Munich beer-maiden carrying 27 litre glasses at once.

Such boisterous images, though, were a far cry from my gently satisfying day - a little hiking, a little beer, in a leafy city of great architectural elegance.

Gateway to Bavaria Getting there: the best deal to Munich at present is on Debonair (0500 146200) from Luton to Munich for £117.40 return. Lufthansa (0.45 737747) and British Airways (0345 222111) fly from Birmingham and Heathrow, BA also flies from Edinburgh and Gatwick,

and Lufthansa from Manchester. A more esoteric way to travel is by train, most economically achieved by using Eurostar (0345 303030) via Brussels to Cologne for £89, then one of the special evening or weekend deals promoted by German Rail (0181-390 8833) - which can get you across Germany to Munich for as little as £12 return for two people travelling together. Getting around: in Munich a selection of cycles can be hired at Radius Touristik, near platform 31 of the Hauptbahnhof Munich's main railway station. Prices begin at £25 per day. Further information: the German National Tourist Office is at 65 Curzon treet, London W1 (0171-493 0080).

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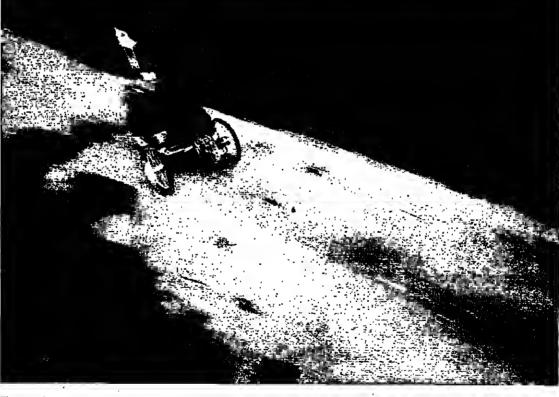
Just lie back and cycle into heaven

There's a lot wrong with most hikes: the saddle, for a start. Then there's the unorthopaedic bend you bave to put into your back to reach the handlebars. And, above all else, when it comes to efficiency even a lightweight racing machine has the aerodynamics of a double-decker bus once you get on

Which is why recumbent riders are so laid-back they're almost horizontal. It's not just a question of attitude. You really do lie back, though you're oot in fact much lower than you are on a normal hike. Gone is that sick joke of a saddle, and, even more important, out on the roads, gone is the tendency to fly head first over the handlebars, as you do when your bike hits some-

By taking the good bits of a bike (wheels, pedals and chain), and arranging them in a sensible way, designers of the recumbent version have created a format that looks bizarre, even unridable, but works beautifully. Though there are lots of varieties of recumbent bike, the common factor is that the pedals are out in front rather than beocath you, allowing a relaxed sitting-back posture which is also efficient for turning the pedals. All your body weight is supported on a mini sun lounger, so neck, spine, wrists, hands and backside don't suffer the contortions and pounding that they do on a conventional bicycle. Handlebars, positioned either above your lap or beneath the seat, are there for steering and operating the controls, not for leaning down on or pulling up on.

With that many differences, riding a recumbent is definitely a new skill



For adventure travel, writes Eric Kendall, don't sit up and beg - a recumbent cycle can take you further and faster than you might think possible

to grasp. The closer you get to ooe, the more you wooder wbether some hideous joke is being played on you by the rest of the world. From swinging your leg over to falling off, everything is unfamiliar - there's not even much to hold on to while wheeling it to a quiet stretch of driveway for a tenta-

tive first go. The process of learning to ride a bike, for most of us, bappeoed too long ago to recall in detail, and it's probably just as well. Learning to ride a recumbent now, aged 31 and threequarters, was essentially a repeat of that distant experience, but much quicker. Instead of Daddy running along behind with my best interests at heart, it was the man from the shop who owned the fantastically expensive machine that I might just crash. Shaking him off, whatever his motivation, was an excellent incentive to get it together.

It's all about taking a chance: baiancing on two wheels never seems a ple clearance. good bet in the cold light of day. Sitting back with your legs out in front ify small boys in meo's bodies, re-

of you makes getting the pedals going much more committed than when they're just a few inches from the ground and you're only a step away from standing on your own two feet. As you prepare to push off for the first time, being too analytical and thinking about bow you'll balance makes life hard. Letting things come naturally, aided and abetted by minimal cerebral input, is the way to do it, so the experts

say: I had no problem at all. Once you're on your way, within minutes it feels so natural that you can begin to appreciate what's going on. Contrary to expectation, the handling is precise - the bike goes where you point it - and it feels amazingly responsive to your pedalling input; these are definitely machines for speed. With the excellent weight distribution (low and towards the back) braking is encouragingly smooth and powerful, and while banking over to corner fast, you can still pedal with am-

Just to confuse things, and to grat-

cumbent trikes add another dimension. They are mercifully simple to ride - you can even leave your feet on the pedals when you come to a halt - though going, not stopping, is what these things are all about. They're so low to the ground that the sensation of speed is fantastic. The handling is quick and active, and lifting the inside wheel in tight corners gives a satisfying, slightly hairy indication that you're trying hard enough; lifting it in shallow bends means you're about to break the land speed record. On the right surface, you can even do hand-brake turns, which should be reason enough for

people to go out in droves to buy them. Recumbents can be successfully ridden in all kinds of traffic conditions but they excel on the open road, going farther, faster and with less effort. The mechanics of having a seat behind you to resist your push against the pedals is superb, allowing your upper body to relax and your lungs to breathe efficiently while your legs do the work. The icant, particularly with the addition of at all.

Fast track: you may look bizarre

on a recumbent bike but you'll

find the sensation of speed

Photograph: Eric Kendall

uplifting

a fairing, which can be fitted to most designs of recumbent cycle.

Where to learn/ try/ buy Some bike shops stock recumbents, but for the UK's biggest range and expert tuition, try Future Cycles (01342 822847) in Sussex. For the full experience they offer day and weekend hire, with money back if you like it so much that you decide to buy a recumbent. Weekend breaks including B&B, tu-

ition and two days' hire cost £115. Other outlets where tuition is availahle are: Gear of Glasgow (014) 3391179) and the Avon Valley Cyclery (01225 442442).

Prices for recumbent cycles start at £399, though the average is around £1,000; recumbeot trikes cost from £1.600 to £3.000.

The British Human Power Cluh (BHPC), 15 Station Road, Dyce, Aberdeen AB21 7BA, is the racing organisation for recumbent cyclists. Races are held at closed tracks and often invoive recumbents with full body shells. The streamlining creed is based on the fact that on a conventional bike at 18mph, 80 per cent of the forces slowing the vehicle come from air resistance, and as the speed increases, so this percentage rises. No wonder cyclists always think they're riding into a head

Speed records, such as 68.7mph for the solo flying 200-metre record, and 48.5 miles for the world hour record, make you wonder why conventional aerodynamic advantage is also signif- bike racers bother to get on the road

صكناس الاعل

Falling with the snow

It's never too late to learn to ski - everyone is entitled to their share of exhilaration and humiliation. John Hobson keels over with the beginners' class... and the grappa

Sixty years old and a ski novice, so the confessional. Side by side and er - and he was an instructor.

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True, he was an avalanche victim but a ski-run architect, a visionary chin. They hire skis and boots bewho helped this Italian village to decause investing in their own would velop other ways of appealing to be just another temptation to fate. tonrists than making clogs. But there's nothing like a leaden sky, and the quiet contemplation of the black saloon's roof-rack piled high with er end. That's the gamble. This is the mourning flowers instead of skis, to reinforce geriatric self-doubt.

It's a somewhat Gothic reprise of the gnawing anxieties that greet each day. If the dawn brings any certainty, it is that the inexpert skier of entitled to a stake in the universal late middle-age won't be troubled by constination.

Less than two bours by autostrais Champolne, the Monte Rosa towering above like the opening credits from Paramount Pictures. Until borrowed time. you round the corner to the lift congrourse, the only street worth the a company of men and women, but name is unhurried and congenial.

At weekends, though, the village and mini-vans, a promenade of designer labels. This influx of locals

what you need right at the outset is soaring aloft, plump strangers of a a reminder of mortality. Day One of certain age scan each other's faces the holiday and the lifts are closed for a wrinkle count, and confide their for the funeral of a 58-year-old ski- fears about recovery time from ligament operations.

These are the aerodynamically - and these just don't happen on challenged men and women of the nursery slopes. Come to that, he lower slopes with bulky salopettes wasn't just any old maestro either, and thick-lined coats zipped to the

But it's just possible you're not past it, and that you'll come out miraculously rejuvenated at the othhubris segment of the grey pound holiday market.

During the good times, say midmorning after a satisfactory warmup and a few successful turns, you're exhilaration. The fresh air, the frequently flawless blue skies, the mountains coated in snow like thick do and hairpin bends from Turin, this cream, the crisp powder under the hope to graduate to catch-all interski: the brochure speaks true. The bonus is the sense of being there on

The beginners' class is not solely trills to the sound of infant voices, and Italian infants at that. They accept as centre becomes jammed with cars just an oddity of the adult world that der the tritelage of a comparatively a fully-grown Brit, on the edge of decline, should trail along at the back means some waiting at the lifts, which as they snowplough down the nurs-cajole you up the mountain with the for the rest of the week possess some- ery slope. Later in the day, it raises promise of a glass or two of grappa thing of the quiet, and purpose, of a few eyebrows among passers by at the next resting place.



Taking a turn: but even at 60, the enthusiatic beginner need not be over the hill

Photograph: Skishoot

when your chubby-cheeked acquaintances hail you familiarly across the street, but at least you're developing a ski reputation of sorts.

Even a 60-year-old can reasonably mediate status after a full week of lessons. From then on, allocation by ability to the ideal ski class becomes less precise, conscientiously though the organisers try to mix and match. But you might just be fortunate enough to spend the week ungrizzled old instructor who will intuitively understand your needs, and

nore the happy-camper invitations to fondue nights and torchlit ski runs from company reps on 18-30 Club day release. Après your ski, bliss is a hot shower or a good soak. Instead of stepping out into the sub-zero darkness, the evening is a decent meal and a drink in the hotel, an Italian TV game show, and so to bed. You can afford to skip the discussion in the bar about piste quality. If the slope is patchy with ice, you'll fall over. That's about it.

brochures carefully for clues to the information that's nearest to your are you going to have to trudge with up an unforgiving gradient.

Meanwhile, it's not difficult to ig- your skis wearing a hole in your shoulder? Is it uphill from the hotel to the lift? Has the travel company arranged for you to dump your hired gear near the lift bottom overnight? If so, is the cost already included? Sure, there are plenty of lifts, but wouldn't you rather be sitting in a chair than hanging on to a drag lift, trying to keep your skis in line with the ruts in the snow?

Get the details wrong, and failure will etch itself on your anatomy. The body heals, but the mental scars remain from a penitential week in Fop-But you will have to scour the polo, a split-level Italian resort, where the alternative to stepping out of the hotel on to a daunting drag lift heart. Never mind the piste, how far was a ski-burdened, 15-minute tramp

ing is a clan activity, for enthusiasts supposedly inured to discomfort. Airport check-in queues double in length because of all the ski clutter and because some airports struggle to cope with the numbers.

It's the shared experience and ski argot that draws participants into a group culture. The wide open spaces of the airport lounge resound to cries of recognition from holidays past, and there's much exchanging of bugs and kisses in the aisles as the coaches sweep new arrivals to the resorts.

Don't knock it. Embrace it, teotatively, having first identified enough. Consider this: where, out- el onwards by rail or car.

.

Adjust, also, to the fact that ski- side a group of similarly mature years, are you going to find solicitous concern, the emergency loan of an elastic bandage or a bottle of liniment?

With luck, anyway, at some stage of the day you'll have found your own breathing space, taking in the mountain view, proud and alone. Think of the grappa. You're that much clos-

Turin is tricky to reach direct from the UK. Alitalia (0171-602 7111) flies daily from London City airport to Turin in association with its codeshare partner Azzurra Air. The alternative is to your bolt-hole for when you've had fly to Geneva, Nice or Milan and trav-

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> **Overseas Travel** Advertising also appears on pages 6, 8 & 9.

For pirates, painters, and anyone else who loves a Cornish fishing village, Polperro is the place, says

Linda Cookson

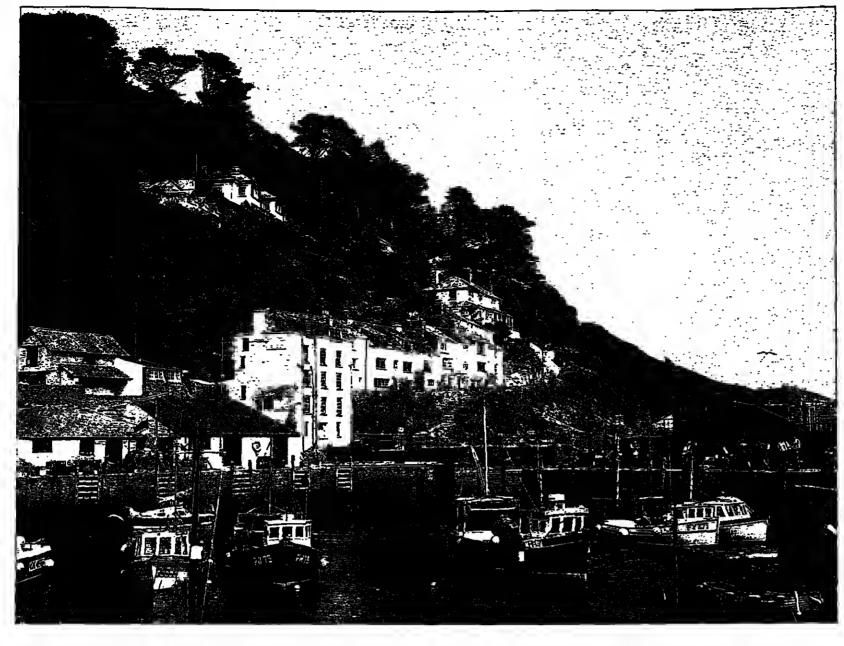
For all you landlubbers, there are two ways into the famously beautiful Cornish fishing village of Polperro. You can approach by road or by cliff path.

If you choose the road, you'll need to leave your car at the public car park at the entrance to the village and walk the half mile or so down towards the barbour. Or - if you're that way inclined - take a ride with the Polperro Horse Bus Company and make your arrival by horse and cart. The disadvantage of this option is that it will be hard to kid yourself that you're not a tourist. Thousands of visitors descend daily on the village at the beight of the season. In minutes you'll have joined the throng and be jostling through the gamut of party stalls, ice-cream barrows, postcard shops and the llkc. As tourist spots go, Polperro is by no means unbearably twee. But it's a pity to hit the lucky pixie charm shop and the fish and chip outlet ("Chip Ahoy!") before you've had even a sniff of sea air.

Far more enticing is the approach on foot, along the glorious National Trust coastal path linking the village with the fishing towns of Looe in one direction and Fowey in the other. It's hard to imagine a more magical first view of a village anywhere in the world. As you round the headland, a uny, picturesque barbour unfolds before you. The accompanying vista of centuries-old fishermen's cottages nestling in parrow crooked streets and clinging to steep hillsides is a scenic artist's fantasy.

Whichever way you arrive, a major joy is to explore the winding streets and pas-sageways, and to marvel at the character and charm of the buildings. Straight lines are bard to find - amid a jumble of assorted shapes and styles, architectural pragmatism rules supreme. Individuality flourisbes. Jaunty windowboxes and hanging baskets create a riot of colour against the paintbox white of most of the cottages. One house has been covered entirely in shells brought home by its owner, a sea captain.

Polperro remains a working fishing village, though the standard catch is now mackerel rather than the pikchards that used to abound. But it is still steeped in the history of its beyday as a smugglers' den. Nes- the entrance to the village. And down by tled in its sheltered ravine setting, the village the quayside, the Peak Rock Artists Stubecame an ideal location for smuggling in dio & Gallery is a working studio open to the 18th century - with consignments of the public. From 20-28 June, the third ancontraband brandy, gin and tobacco com- nual Festival of Arts, Music and Drama will ing from Guernsey. This history is cele-take place in the village. Performers will



Singing in the smugglers' den

Heritage Museum of Smuggling and Fishing, situated in an old pilchard factory overlooking the barbour.

During this century, Polperro has become more of a magnet for artists. The East Cornwall Society of Artists mounts an annual exhibition at the Ebenezer Gallery near brated in Polperro's memorabilia-packed include the famous Polperro Fishermen's

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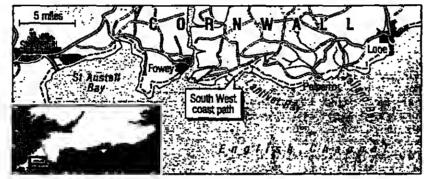
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Choir, plus visiting artists such as the guitarist Bert Jansch and the poet Brian Patten, whose Cornish poem for The Independent appears opposite.

Should you weary of the bustle within the village itself, do remember the loveliness of the coastline. The sandy beach at nearby Talland Bay is only a mile along the Coastal Path, with Looe some three-anda-half miles farther on. If you don't quite feel up to that exertion, you can always head inland, following the stream from Talland Bay to Bridals Lane, once a spot notorious For details of the 1998 Polperro Festival of for smuggling runs.

Not just a pretty place: Polperto, with its hidden harbour, was an ideal location for dodgy dealing in the 18th century

Photograph: Robert Harding Picture Library

If any sort of walking feels too much like hard work, take one of the half-bourly trips on a local fishing boat along the coast from the harbour. Or why not let a pony do the trekking? The stables at nearby Lansailos Barton (01503 272192) hire out horses for accompanied cliff-top rides. Absolute beginners can clop contentedly along the rocky pathways in the knowledge that they're on two safe pairs of hooves.

For a staunch Methodist community (John Wesley preached there twice in the 1760s) Polperro is reassuringly well stocked with pubs. My own favourites are the Blue Peter, on the end of the quay, and the Three Pilchards, beside the harbour. The Noughts & Crosses, formerly a bakery, is also worth a visit. Its name comes from the bookkeeping habits of its 17th-century owner.

Eating out in the evenings is excellent. All pubs offer food - the Crumplehorn Inn. at the entrance to the village, is the best in my opinion - and there's a surprisingly wide variety of restaurants. For a change, try The Mermaid Pizza.

To see Polperro at its loveliest, stay overnight. For longer stays, biring a cottage is easily the best bet. The main specialist provider is Polperro's Black Horse Agency which handles some 26 holiday properties (01503 272303).

For shorter stays, the Crumplehorn Inn - which also offers self-catering apartments - does bed and breakfast for two people sharing a double room at £40 a night (01503 272348). Bed and breakfast in the Old Mill House Hotel in the centre of the village (01503 272362) costs £45 for a double room (extra charge for the four-poster).

But if money is no object, venture that mile or so along the cliff path to the Talland Bay Hotel (01503 272667). This attractive country house, dating back to the 16th century, is set amid gorgeous gardens and overlooks the sea. Dinner, plus bed and breakfast for two sharing a double room with sea view, could set you back as much as £190 at the height of the season. But prices are less steep at this time of year: dinner, bed - in a room with a sea view and breakfast cost £72 per person, and there's a special offer of £110 per person for two nights including dinner and breakfast, but minus the view.

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Going round in stone circles

Weekend walk jonathan Sale makes tracks in Penwith

Morvah sounds like an Old Testament city put the B3306 on to a road that develops into a to the sword by the Medes and Persians. It is track. Go over a stone stile, then bear left along in fact a small village oo a loop off the B3306, a rough footpath along the side of a field. Keep the narrow, winding and up-and-down coast road along the rocky north coast of Cornwall stretching from St Ives to St Just. It is also the like the one in the Old Testament which really starting point for a size of the like the one in the Old Testament which really starting-point for a circular walk in the Penwith district that takes you past ancient stones, disused tin mines and a stretch of the South

West Coast Path that it is 100 a field. The last of the inland trod Zennor section to the east.

you immediately see oo the right-hand side of the road a yellow arrow indicating the first of several stone stiles. These lead to a minor road which, as you follow it to the right, rapidly becomes a minor track. Turn left at a crossroads, or rather, cross-tracks, and almost immediately

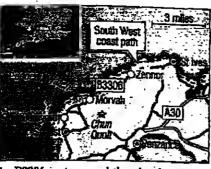
a faded sign points to a grassy path on the right. Ahead, through hramble and gorse, looms Chuo Quoit, a 12ft-square "capstone" resting on four uprights (well, they're more or less upright). The most striking of the third millennium BC chambered tombs in the Penwith region, it was originally the centre of an eroded long barrow 35ft in diameter.

An arrow set into the path here points left to Chun Castle. The high point of the walk the spot is 216 metres above sea level - this Iron Age fort was constructed in the third century BC. Its walls, faced with granite blocks, form two low, battered circles.

Return to the Quoit and keep going in the same direction, on a path that takes you over Portheras Cove, the only beach on our rocky the magnificently named Wooo Gumpus Common. Arrows and stone stiles lead to a wide track which hits a road junction. Continue in the same direction along the road (sign to Levant Mine) but leave it very soon at a bend by taking the substantial track to your left. Where this bends sharply left to a farm, go straight ahead up a footpath which passes, via a short detour to your left, a striking rocky outcrop known as Carn Kenidjack.

The path carries oo up a hill so spectacular that someooe left a radio mast on it. From here can be seen a horizon filled with tin mine chimoeys. Clearly dating back to the days before planning permission was required, they represent a substantial portion of Cornwall's industrial revolution. Carry on down from here, across a track and over a stooe stile, until the footpath comes out at a house named (doubtless correctly, although for me the mist got in the way) Atlantic View. The road leads to the tiny village of Carnyonth.

Cross over the Tjunction with our old friend Bodmin, Comwall PL30 4DE.



the mine chimney roughly ahead and aim to was destroyed by the Medes).

West Coast Path that is less fêted than the wellscramble along the side of fields as first one Walking along the B3306 towards St Ives, and then another mine chimney heaves into view. When you finally reach them, you are on the coast path, the easy bit for the directionally challenged. Turn right and you reach, just after Botallack Head clinging to the cliffs and sticking out into the Atlantic, the 1840 Levant Beam Engine, which is now in the care of the National Trust.

The next stretch displays a fascinating struggle between the old industrial desolation caused by mining and the new vegetation seeking to cover it. Sooo Cornwall's dark Botallack mills are left behind and the view ahead shows the features Cornwall is so good at: breakers, headlands, tall chimneys and, just beyoud the low volcanic slab of The Avarack, the lighthouse on the bulge known as Pendeco Watch. Off the shore is The Wra or Three Stone Oar, a lethal rock demonstrating why the light-bouse seemed such a good idea in the first

On the other side of this headland lies walk. Crossing a stream on the far side and going op the side of a hill, you come to a signpost indicating a choice of route. For the shorter option, follow the arrow pointing in-land on a path leading to a road. At a right-hand bend with a building on each side of the road, climb a stone stile beside a patch of grass on the left. Go straight across the field and pick up a succession of stiles that take you to a farm gate. Morvah church is just a few more yards down the road to your left.

For the slightly longer, and more pleasant, option, take the left fork along the cliffs, turning right at the acorned signpost next to a small hut. Follow the octtles until you come to Mor-

Ordnance Survey: Landranger 203 (Land's End). Coast of Cornwall Leaflet 11 (Cape Cornwall to Logan Rock) covers part of this walk; send 80p plus a first-class stamp to: National Trust, Cornwall Regional Office, Llanhydrock,

King Arthur's sleepless knights

Dramatic and brooding, Tintagel is set on one of the wildest and most savagely romantic coastlines in Britain. The legendary birthplace of King Arthur is saturated in folklore ... gift shops, hordes of visitors and piles of plastic Excaliber swords. What, asks Liverpool poet Brian Patten, would Merlin and the original Knights of the Round Table make of it all if they were around today?



What are they up to now, those medieval heroes? Sir Lancelot, old and wheezy, Sits in the back room of the King Arthur Tavern; His mind half gone. He mistakes the glass of wine shaking in his arthritic hands for the Holy Grail; Sir Perceval's a write-off. Released under a care in the Community Scheme He's back in Tintagel Embarrassing the day-trippers; In the King Arthur car park Sir Bedivere's arguing with the grockles, He's been short-changing them

Sir Galahad's in trouble -He's been slipping love potions into young girls' drinks – The blonde waitress at the Camelot Cafe Has shopped him at last, Poor old geezer, mumbling about sheaves and swords, His innuendoes ripe as melons: Guinevere couldn't stand him: She gave up her job at the Excaliber Spud-U-Like And ran off with a prat front the Cornish tourist board.

Merlin fared little better: His magic reduced to trivia He turned himself into a million and one souvenirs And opened a gift shop.

Perceval, Bors, Gawain, Morgan le Fay, the Fisher King, The poet shamans, the whole weird crew. Wander back and forth between the lands Of the living and the dead and the not-quite-surc. Spectral creatures, Glimpsed in Tintagel High Street late at night By a few solitary believers.

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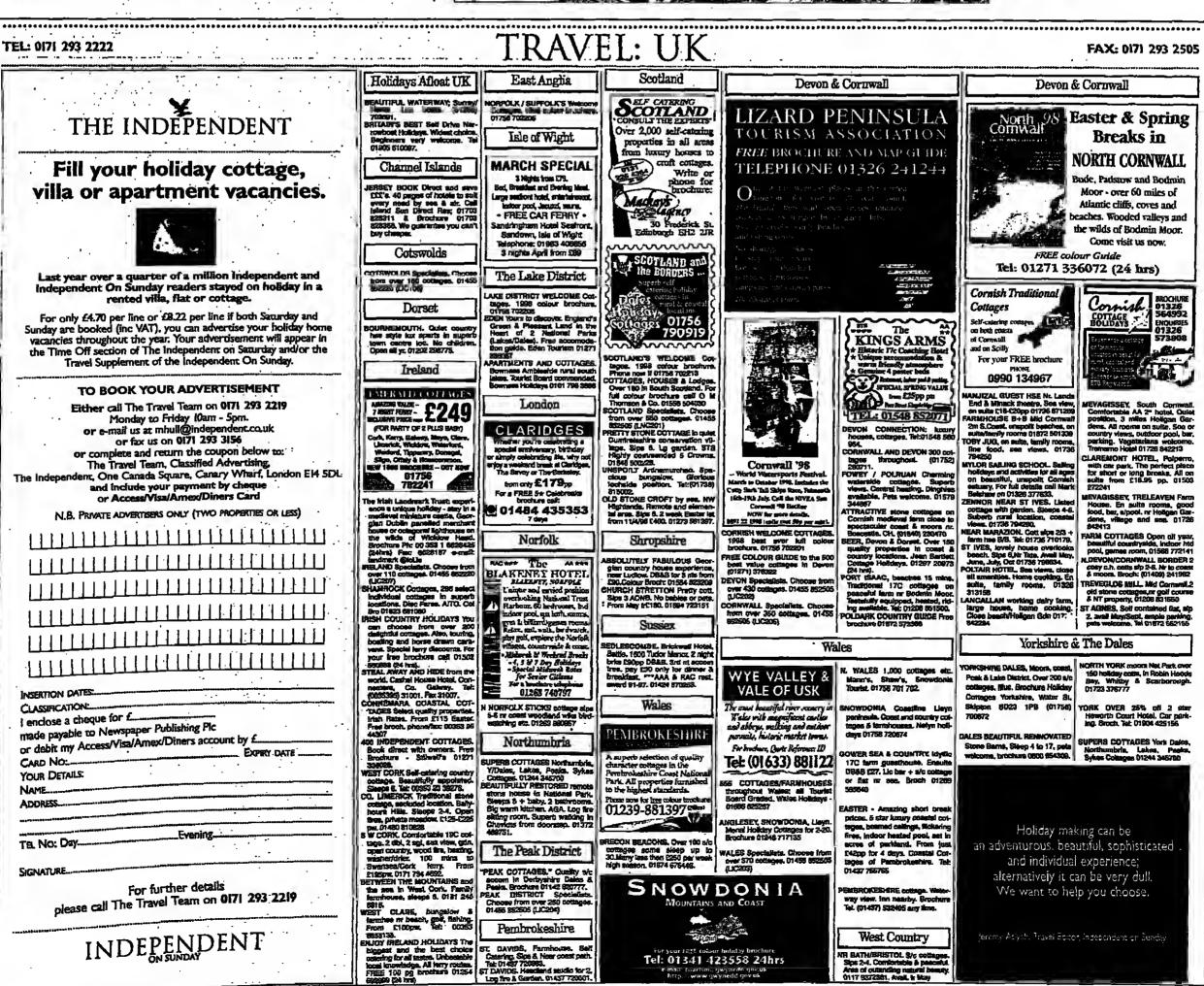








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Emma Haughton and her family sailed to a rugged island in the Bristol Channel which they found far from cosy - and far from anywhere else. But they still want to go back

A day trip to the island of Luody is the ultimate in mini-cruises - the boat is small, and your destination distinctly diminutive. And as you chug out of Bideford Bay towards the open sea, everything seems Lilliputian; the compact riverland bays, the little fishing boats bobbing on the swell, the tiny lighthouse on its promontory of sand.

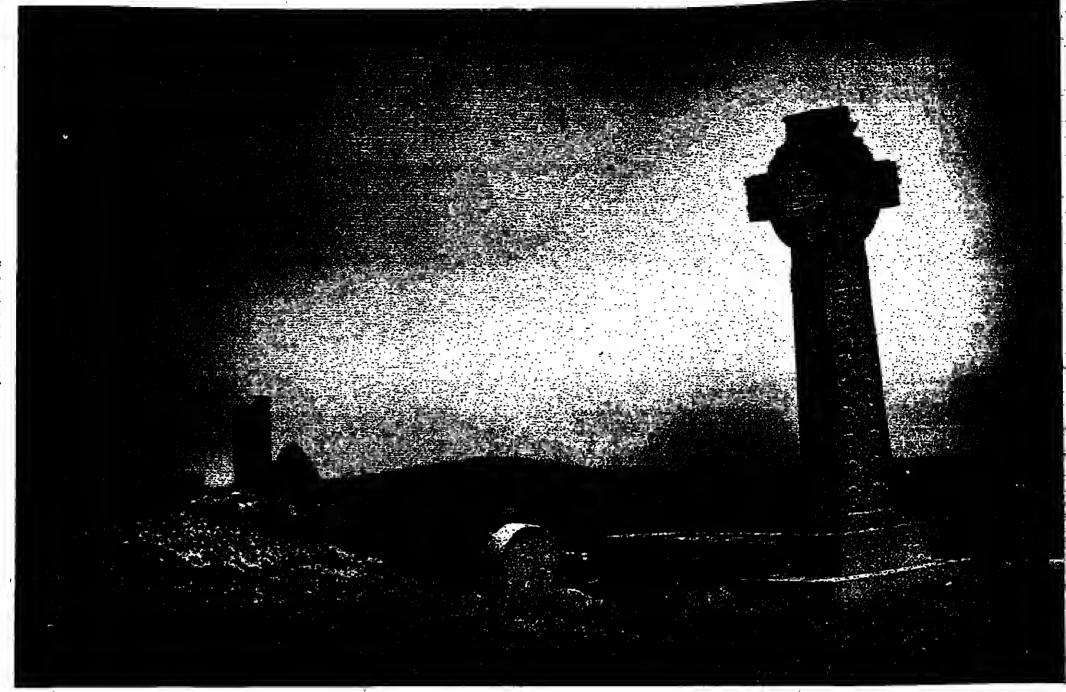
Luody sits 10 miles off the oorth Devon coast, where the Atlantic meets the Bristol Channel, so you have a couple of hours to explore the 270-seater MS Oldenburg. Ask nicely, and the kids can go up on to the bridge to "steer" the ship and peer at the splodges on the radar which show the boat nudging its way towards the

The approach to Lundy is spectacular. Its sheer cliffs loom towards you, a church perched nn their top like some insane but majestic folly: you can instantly appreciate the island's tempestuous reputation as a pirates' lair, and the site of 137 shipwrecks. Indeed, there is nothing cosy about Lundy. You disembark via a 30-seat launch, theo undertake a streouous 20-minute climh to the top of the 500-ft cliffs, where the only home comforts on offer are one tavern and a shop - though both are well stocked and nffer plenty in terms of refreshment.

Lundy may be Norse for "puffin island", but don't expect to find it overrun with cute seahirds; the puffins are seldom seeo between August and Fehruary. You may have mnre luck with seals, which bathe and haul themselves on to the offshore rocks all around the island.

But even if the wildlife remains obstinately out of view, there is plenty to see on this three-miles-by-half-a-mile grassy plateau, owned by the National Trust; a dramatic old lighthouse with its vertiginous tower, the 13th-century Marisco Castle, and the church, with its little aquarium and wildlife displays.

Best of all is a leisurely stroll around Lundy's dramatic shorelines, the western side freely among animals, while the north is open Zachary, two.



Stranded in beauty

Bronze Age settlements, whose but circles and stock walls can still be seen.

pounded by the Atlantic, the east coast more Emma Haughton, freelance writer, and her sheltered. The south end of the island is a busband Jonathan (Joff) went with their card with a Lundy stamp with a picture of working farm, where children can wander three children, Joshua, seven, Flan, five, and a puffin, but we forgot to post it.

TRAVEL: OVERSEAS:

moorland grazed by wild Soay sheep - these Joshua: The best thing about going there It was really scary going up there because the kids once we got there, and rather at are reputedly similar to those farmed by the was when I helped drive the boat. It was it was miles up. Mum was really a scaredyeasy, you just turn the steering wheel at the front of the ship. Lundy was really good. I liked the little streams everywhere, and there were loads of cliffs. We saw some goats. We had a lolly and a Coke and bought a post-

My favourite thing was the lighthouse.

cat. She felt sick going up and especially coming down, because of the steep steps. She felt better afterwards and we went in the sea before going back on the boat. The water was very clear, but a bit cold. It was a very lucky day because I had two packets

Flan: We went on the big boat by a gangplank, then when we were really near Lundy we got on a littler boat and went to the shore on it. That hit was fun. While we were on on it. That hit was fun. While we were on the boat, we went up to the top and saw a hit of rock, the end of which you can see Small wonder: Lundy offers uncarned TV for seeing Lundy on it. It looked like wherever you look. France, the snape of it, we went up the lighthouse. There was about 99 steps, perhaps more than 100. The lighthouse was hig and bad a deck chair in the middle at the top where you could sit and look out. out there in the ocean with no traffic or Cost: Adult day return, £24; children un-

Joff: I was really amazed at how big Lundy was as we approached, the way it rose so sheer out of the water. Being there was rather like being perched on a hit of moorland in the middle of the sea. The views were spectacular, although sadly there was a creeping mist and it was difficult to see far ahead at times. It felt very remote. I could imagine it would be a wonderful place to spend a week's holiday if you really wanted to get away from civilisation, but I did feel rather abandoned with 470422.

the mercy of the elements. If it had rained we would have been a hit stuck.

Emma: I was really thrilled by the whole thing, but then I'm a sucker for boats and islands and that sort of thing-there's something so Enid Blyton-ish about it all. I loved the boat trip. The vessel bad real character and was large enough to be comfortable, but small enough to feel intimate and exciting. Being on Lundy was almost surreal. There is something so strange and exhilarating about being stranded on a hig .

They certainly weren't exaggerating in describing Lundy as a place of outstanding natural beauty. It was very special, so wild, remote and romantic - and peaceful, noise except for the waves and bleating of sheep. I'd love to go back and spend longer there one day.

Boat services to Lundy run all year round from Bideford and Ilfracombe, and during the spring and summer from Clovelly. Daytrip boats may not always return you to the same port from which you departed, in which case a free coach service operates. Arrival and departure times depend on the tides. For more information call 01297

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beauty and romantic isolation

der 16, £12; children under three, £1. Family ticket for two adults and two children, £60; each additional child, £5. There are discounts for National Trust members. Facilities: The ship has huffet, bar, shop, toilets and heated saloons. Lundy has a tavern and a well-stocked island shop. Advice: Wear walking boots or comfortable shoes. There is a Land Rover for those who cannot manage the climh to the top of the island. The Oldenburg cannot wait for late passengers. Miss your sailing home and you are stranded - and accommodation on the island is limited.

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Island life

Brownsea Island, Poole Harbour (01202 707744). On this island of heath and wildlife, you can expect to see red squir-rels and many different species of hirds. There are plenty of walks and an excellent view of Poole Harbour from the is-land. Catch a boat from Poole Quay, Bournemouth or Sandbanks. Accessible 1 April-4 October 10am-5pm and until 6pm during July and August. Adults £2.40, child £1.20, family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £6.

Farne Islands, Northumberland (01665 721099). Here you'll see (hopefully) puffins, eider ducks, tern and more.
There is also a colony of seals on the island. Open 1 April-30
September. During May-July, access is limited. If you are
visiting Inner Farne, you are advised to wear a hat. May-July
£3.90 and nt other times £3. No boats land in heavy weather.

Hilbre Island Local Nature Reserve, clo Wirral Country Park Centre, Wirral (0151-648 4371). The Hilbre Island is a high-tide roost for wading hirds and a resting place for many migrating hirds. Access is by foot at low tide, but he careful, as there are dangerous tides by the estuary. Admission is free and if there are more than five in a group,

then phone the reserve beforehand on 0151-648 4371

Skokholm Island Nature Reserve, off south-west coast of Pembrokeshire (01437 765462). Storm petrels, oyster catchers, puffins, razorbills - this is ooe of the most important seabird-breeding sites in Europe. You may also see grey seals, porpoises and dolphins. Boats here leave

from Martinshaveo and take about 40 minutes, but be

warned – it can get very choppy.

Starting this year there will be short hreaks, weekend hreaks and week-long stays, with theme hreaks like art courses, available. There is also a Bed and Breakfast on the island. The island is open between April and the end of September.

Sorah-Jane Wakefield

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Strange news, following the Chancellor's imposition of an

extra 4p a litre on fuel: those huge, highway devouring

beasts that Americans love so much are to hit the roads

Step aside for the guzzlers

A Lincoln Town Car to Britaio would look more chance. The new LS6 and LS8 modabout as incongruous as the USS Nimitz sailing up the Thames at low tide. Big Yank share the same chassis platform as the upcars, such as Liocoins, are overspecced, overlades and thankfully - for the time being, anyway - just over there. But things are currently used in the Jaguar XJ8 and XK8 changing. Next year, a new Lincoln model will go on salc io Europe.

It's not the Town Car, or the vast 4x4 Navigator (which looks like a Range Rover on steroids), or the "little" Contineotal, or the vast MkV111 coupé that's got only two doors but occupies as much road space as the average English semi-detached. Rather, it's the LS, which makes its world debut next month at the New York Auto Show and should be reaching UK and Continental showrooms in early 1999. British-spec cars will be right-hand drive. It will be the second big, prestige American name to launch into the UK. Cadillac is about to begin selling its Seville, through various Vauxhall

Whereas nobody really expects Cadillac to sell in hig oumhers. Lincoln is giveo

els promise much, not least because they coming new Jaguar X200. The LS8 also uses the excellent Jaguar 4.0-litre V8 engine, as models. (It will also be found on top-line versions of the new Jaguar X200.) This common platform philosophy has helped Jaguar to get a oew model to market much sooner, and less expensively, than anticipated. It has also helped Lincoln to get a quality suspensioo system and engine

which should make it well suited to Europe. Although the Lincoln move into Europe is still officially secret, the new car - also officially secret - will take over from the Scorpio as Ford's prestige vehicle. Ford has iust announced that Scorpio productioo stops this July, owing to poor sales. Lincoln will be Ford's prestige badge, in the same way that Toyota uses Lexus, and should prove a useful stepping-stooe to Jaguar, which is also part of the Ford empire. Ford's move is a reflection of the huge

of Europe. By Gavin Green prestige badges and away from the mass makers. Last year, Mercedes made 260,000 E-class cars. Yet Ford made only 21,000 of its Scorpio, which competes (or, at least, is supposed to compete) with the Mercedes. Vauxhall, Recault, Peugeot and Rover had similar tales of marketing woe. The

Ford is hoping that the Lincoln name will help, just as GM - owner of Vauxhall/ Opel - is turning to Cadillac. It also realises that it has a belluva job to build up the Lincoln brand, still largely unknown on this

message is clear: when Europeans huy

pricey cars, they want prestige badges on

swing, in the executive car market, towards side of the Atlantic. Those who've heard of the Lincoln at all, probably remember it as being the make of car in which John F Kennedy took his last-ever ride, in

> None of the current Lincoln models will follow the LS model to Europe. Nooe the less, on a recent trip to the States I thought I'd catch up on Lincoln's two newest models now on sale, to get a flavour of what's in store. In America, there is little prestige attached to Lincoln, or to its top-line model, the Town Car. Americans are far more pragmatic than badge-conscious Europeans, and will typically buy for value and practicality rather than for labels and looks.

The Town Car has a buge 4.6-litre V8 engine which moves the beast - still built with a separate, truck-like chassis - with the same sort of insouciant case as a weightlifter carrying a baby. The vast front seat is long enough to play football on, and contains three seat helts. Three adults can also sit in the rear, with ecough room to flail elbows.

There are acres of tacky-looking "wood" (it comes from a tube, not a tree) and a hig. diff-like dash. The bonnet is so vast that the grille must get home about 10 mioutes before the driver. The seats, as with everything else oo the car, are automatically adjusted every which way. The minimum expenditure of effort, in every possible way, is this car's creed.

Of course, h feels big and cumbersome, and chews through gasoline just as assuredly as it swallows the interstate distances. But I liked it. You don't so much actively drive this car as languidly guide it. It's like taking the executive lift while the staff use the

1 didn't like the Lincoln Navigator 4x4 as much. Although shorter than the Town Car - a mere 204.8 inches from bow to stern -it is heavier and higher (6ft 5io). You can see over the top of most cars when you stand alongside. Instead, the Navigator looks down on you. I have ocver stood next to a car this vast.

Ahous

It's part of a daft trend, in the US, to big 4x4s, machines that make Range Rovers and Ford Explorers and Jeep Grand Cherokees look like baby Fiats - part of the Great American Driver's assertion of his basic right to drive what the hell he wants, and damn the size and the fuel economy.

It is, to quote Bill Bryson, part of the "f*** you" school of American architecture. a vast, intimidating thing that is supposed to confer strength and power on its user but, of course, does nothing of the surt.

The upcoming European-bound Lincoln LS - although still hig and imposing - will be different. For the sake of all European road users, and for future Lincoln sales prospects here, this is just as well.

The old ones are the best

Road test: Roger Bell experiences the Mercedes-Benz 500SL

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the SL roadster, Mercedes has launched embellished special editions of its 320SL and 500SL. Don't seed a birthday card. Since the 190SL durable, ultra-safe and, prowas unveiled in 1955, and the 300SL roadster in 1957, such as celebration seems a little

contrived. But provided that buyers don't equate "special edition" with "solid investment" - SL resale values won't be much affeeted by the extra equipment - it matters little that the excuse for a party was motivated more by commerce than by sentiment.

The Millennium Dome will have seen paying customers before the launch of the next SL -spy photos show the prototype to be leaner, lower and more rouoded thao the model it will supplant - so Mercedes needs to market the present nine-yearold wundercar quite aggressively.

Jaguar's XKS, soon to he available with a supercharged engine, is one reason why Mercedes-Benz may find SLs increasingly difficult to shift. Price is another. The Special Editions don't come cheap, at £66,630 for the SL 320 and £83.630 for the SL500. M-B electrooic aids that control plan to make between 150 and wheelspin, skidding, cahio ker, the company's third- protection, mirror-dipping, to suggest they are - an orig- you'll get.

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the US. Take it as read that they will all be beautifully assembled (oo polished wood floors at a plant in Bremen), amazingly vided they have V engines, hlisteringly quick.

The 500SL on test was not

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Price: £81,340. Engine: 4973cc, eight cylinders, 32 valves, 320bhp

at 5600rpm. Five-speed automatic, rear wheel drive. Top speed

Aston Martin DB7 Volante: £92,500 (cheaper coupé,

£84,950). Great looks, lots of character, strong performance,

BMW M Roadster: £40,570. Go-faster version of the two-

seater convertible. Great to drive, very fast. Same 320thp engine

Jaguar XK8 convertible: £56,625 (coupé £49,625). Head-

turning presence, lovely V8 engine, very smooth, rides and handles well. Coming supercharged XKR, blisteringly quick

higgest, behind Germany and eveo how the five-speed auto inai 300SL, opeo or closed, is shifts its gears.

headgear, unlatching, furling and disappearing at the press of a huttoo. You want for oothing, other than a soft, cosseting ride. For the average budget the 500SL is crazy mooey, of a Special Edition, but extras (in-course. But you would need

300SL Gullwing that sired it.

as blue-chip as collectables There's also the party-trick come. No matter how special the edition, a 500SL will never acquire the status of a Gullwing, Merc's most coveted post-war car. Nor will the current flagship 600SL, powered by a 6.0-litre V12 engine of uncanny smoothness. Proveocluding alloy wheels that cost more-perhaps £100,000 more ance, pedigree and scarcity determine these things.

The SL (super light) label is as much a misnomer as the. "sports car" tag that goes with it. SLs are in fact heavyweight grand tourers, as good to be seen in as they are exemplary to drive. Even a tame, fourcylinder 190SL (1955-63) could cost £25,000, according to Classic Car's price guide (a fully restored, ex-Ringo Starr 190SL was up for sale receotly at £35,000). The six-cylinder 230SL and 250SL that followed (1963-68) are today less valuable than the faster 280SL that ran from 1968 to 1971.

The real SL bargains can be found from the oext series. made in the Seventies and Eighties. Merc's impeccable £4,886) elevated its price to an - for an original 300SL roadster SE-beating £89,381. Such extra-circa 1957/58. Half as much build quality has left many a worthy survivor languishing oo the forecourts at Ford Escort again might buy the race-bred money. There's no such thing as Eveo if classic prices are dea trouble-free classic, but upper-175 of each for the British mar- climate, speed, roll-over clining - and there's evidence crust Mercs come as close as

A good alley for an old cat

If you know what to look for, a secondhand laguar can be an astounding bargain. James Ruppert offers advice on how to choose an XIS

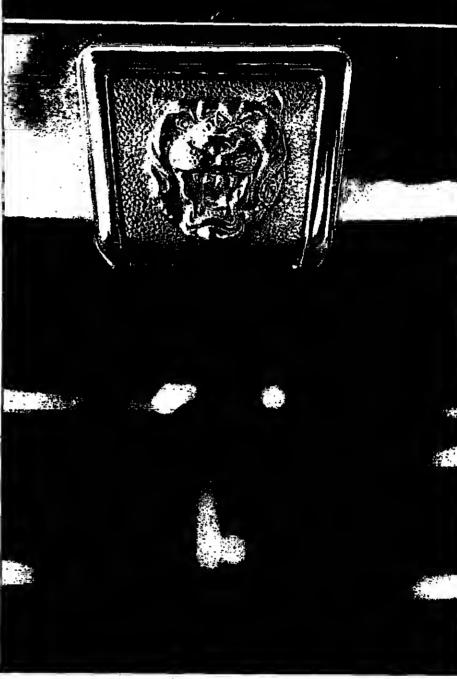
The new Jaguar XKR has just been announced. At £60,000 ir is the most expensive and with a top speed of 155mph it is the fastest Jaguar ever huilt, If that is a hit steep for your wallet there is an alternative in the shape of its predecessor, the XJS, a great, hig. comfy, grand

Above all, it is a lot of flash for not much used-car cash. So as the XK8 gets all the attention, prices of the XJS now hit rock bottom.

The mixed reaction to the XJS came at the 1975 London Motor Show launch. Jaguar had a one-model policy, and this: huge, 16ft-long car came as a coupé with a massive V12 5.3at 3,000 a year, but dwindled to below 1,000 in 1981 - when Jaguar suspended productioo because oo one was buying.

These early cars really are that bad, and not worth huying unless you are an enthusiast who runs an oil company. First of all, fuel consumption struggled into the low teens. Build quality could be poor, and most of the bodywork is now one hig rust tran. Don't be tempted. If you must have an early car, huy one that has been properly restored and cared for; and £3,000 to £4,000 is the very most you

should pay. The XJS's twilight years have been eventful. High performance XJR-S models have been built since 1988 with tuned V12 engines, sports suspension and body kit. In 1991 the model was revised quite radically, wheo the body panels were smoothed off, the rear wings went square and the fussy quarter lights were deleted. The coupé had never looked better,and the car got more ecoo- glitch. omical, with a 4.0-litre version replacing the 3.6. Likewise, the XJS go? McCarthy Cars had a V12 engine was uprated and by 1993 was producing 6.0 litres. Jaguars always were good value control, and everything else brand new and absolute giveaways when used, and the arrival of the new XK8 has centre of attention I could have depressed XIS values farther. A gone for the F-registered con-



Go cat: thirsty, cramped - but the XJS is unbeatable second-hand Photograph: John Lawrence

late-Eighties 3.6 is a good huy vertible version, in white with models cost up to £50,000, which at £7,000, while the revised 4.0litre models can be bought for £11,000 to £13,000. Steer clear of the V12 unless someone else is paying for the petrol. Service histories are a must, as is shopping at a specialist main agent, and paying for an engineer's second opinion wheo buying privately. Any damage to the trim will cost a fortune to put right, as will any mechanical

So how low does an old 1989 V12 for a mere £6,995. Tan leather, air-conditioning, cruise the lazy luxury car driver would oeed. If I'd wanted to be the copious equipment, but an unwise body kit, for £10,995.

However, it is always better to raise your sights and go shopping for such a car at the specialists. Chiltern claim to have the largest selection of used Jaguars in the country, and to be honest it is difficult to argue. When I visited, there were more than a dozen XJS models. Prices started at £8,495 for a 3.6, rising to £19,995 for a 1994 oew-shape 4.0 coupé. There were several other XJS with "sport" packages (uprated suspension and steering) on sale. This is a popular option to give the car a younger image, especially when the average XJS owner is a distinctly 6.0 cost £12,495. New, these

makes the secood-hand vehicle a real supercar bargain.

The huying packages on offer were designed to inspire confidence with warranties, presale services and factory-trained technicians. However, amongst their part-exchange clearance bargains, sold without warranty, was a 1989 3.6 coupé which had a full service history and a recent £1,000 hill for work carried out at a main agent. It looked great value at £4,495.

The XJS may not be perfect; it may be a hit cramped inside, and a bit thirsty, but in sheer, used-value-for-money terms, it is unbeatable.

middle-aged 51. A 1990 XJR-S McCarthy Cars (0181 688 8086);

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Voice personals

MY WORST CAR - JOHN BRUNNING'S FORD THAMES VAN

1 was touring with Mungo Jerry in 1972 and we needed a van. Ahhh, now I remember why we bought a 1964 Ford Thames van for £90: there was lots of room in the back for all the gear. Other than that, this vehicle did not have a great deal going for it, mainly because it had a 1,500cc diesel engine, a threespeed gear change oo the steeting column and no heater.

Now, that was a major prob- seal around the metal engine lem. In winter the only way to cover had perished, which let in reduce the chances of frostbite all sorts of nasty diesel fumes. was to make use of the van's en- During winter that stink was gine, which was actually inside the cah, underneath a huge cold start that we had to spray metal cover. The prime spot for passengers was to sit right on top of it. I was never that lucky because our roadie didn't drive, as I was the only one with the proper insurance.

Unfortunately the rubber



made worse by the half a can of on the engine to persuade it into life. I only need a quick whiff of that spray and it takes me straight hack to those days.

Despite the smell, lack of wheel to the axie. We still made heat and any other creature the gig, because the promoter

it by decorating the interior with featuring Pink Floyd, Marc Bolao and David Bowie. It hrightened up the living accommodation no end and even the outside world. However, it didn't make the van any more comfortable, because we still had to sleep on top of all the equipment

To be fair, the van was pretty reliable, although at one point the engine had to be rebuilt, which cost a good few hundred pounds. Then there was the time when our mechanically disinclined roadie claimed to have fitted new wheel bearings but John Brunning can be heard on had in fact spannered them up so tightly that it welded the

He collected the equipment colourful contemporary posters from the van and generally ferried us about, which was luxury.

Then there was the time when we were touring American air hases in Germany, and helped to sound-proof us from the hracket holding the dynamo hroke. The soldiers rescued us and said go and have some beer and burgers while we fix it, which restored my faith in Uncle Sam.

I don't know what happened to the van. I have feeling it got abandooed in a lay by somewhere. Then, like everyone else in the music business we bought a Ford Transit.

weekdays on Classic FM presenting 'Newsnight' and 'Smooth Classics', between 6.30pm and comforts, we made the best of rescued us in his Volvo estate. Ruppers. 9pm. He was talking to James

WEEKEND Work

 Split clumps of snowdrops and aconites as they finish flowering and replant the hulbs with a handful of bonemeal to encourage them. Snowdrops look particularly good in ivy. Aconites seem to flourish in the sort of starved grass you get under deciduous trees. Many roses have not lost their foliage at all this winter, which makes pruning seem more daunting, but if you have not already tackled the roses, do it immediately. Start by cutting out dead wood, then all spindly stems and suckers. That will be enough for old-fashioned roses. Hybrid teas need sterner treatment: follow each stem up from the bottom until you come to a likely-looking outward-facing bud and cut the stem off above the bud. That is the tidy way. The quick way is to shear over the top of HT roses with a hedge-clipper. Tired box bedges can be boosted with a dressing of some general fertiliser, such as Growmore or Vitax Q4. Use roughly two ounces for every yard of bedge. If box bedges have got hideously leggy, try cutting them back hard, leaving no more than 4-5m of stem. Feed when they show signs of resprouting. They may not. Box is not so forgiving as yew. Cut to the ground shrubs such as ruhus, grown for their coloured winter stems. If you bave not already done so, shear off the old foliage of periwinkle to make way for the new shoots now springing up through the dross, Summer-flowering bulbs should be planted as soon as possible. Peter Nyssen of

A house for all seasons

Workshop: it's a waste to use a greenhouse simply as a storage hut. At least that is what the Fullers felt... Anna Pavord advises on how to turn a potting shed into a festival of flowers



I have an octagonal, metal-framed greenhouse with no integral heating, though we do have two paraffin heaters. For three to four months in spring and early summer, the greenhouse is full to bursting with boxes of flower and vegetable seedlings. For the rest of the year it is used only sporadically for plants, and mainly for storing pots and garden tools. This seems rather a waste, and I wonder if you could suggest ways in which I could use it all the year round?

Gillian and Malcolm Fuller's and low. Aluminium shelves run greenhouse stands at the apex of their triangular garden, and is in full sun now that a neighbouring fir tree has been felled. The influx of light was metaphorical as well as practical. After eight years of using the greenhouse for little more than raising tomato plants and summer bedding. Mrs Fuller suddenly saw other possibilities.

fortably, with a ceremonial path certainly be enough to beat a into the house from January to the People in glass houses: Gillian leading up to it, flanked by Ballerina' apple trees. But the ceremony needs to end in something. more uplifting than stacks of old plastic pots and seed trays. "No problem," said Mrs Fuller swiftly. There would be plenty of room to store those in the garage.

The greenhouse (made by Waytogrow) has an aluminium frame and glass panes. One side of the octagon forms the door, and there is reasonable ventilation both high round five sides of the house at two levels, about 2ft apart. The house is set on concrete slabs, which is a pity, as the solid base gives oo opportunity to plant shading climbers either side of the entrance, where the shelving stops. . The Fullers haveo't been heat-

ing the greenhouse since the wick burned out on their paraffin stove, It is small - no more than 6ft but were prepared to do so if the and tignidia, you could provide a from an April planting. across - but it sits in its space com-results justified it. The stove would ooo-stop flow of flowers to bring

space as small as this, though an end of September. electric beater, controlled by a thermostat, would be a simpler way to keep the place frost free during winter. That would mean running a cable under the lawn, to provide a power supply. It's the kind of project that to me seems monumental, but Mr Fuller, a practical man, took it in his stride.

In a greenhouse as small as this. hulbs are the simplest way of providing interest and colour through the year, but the greenhouse must he frost free. There is no space to cultivate climbers such as bougainvillaea and plumbago, and anyway you wouldn't want plants that grow too large. But by planting a successioo of hardy and tender hulbs and tubers, such as achimenes, acidanthera, amaryllis, anemone, begonia, chincherinchee, freesia, ixia, ranunculus, sparaxis

and Malcolm Fuller Planted in batches between Au- Photograph: Mike Scott/Newsteam

men and, later, poinsettia. Both are

thought of as house plants, but the

cvclamen would relish regular

breaks in a cool greenhouse. They

hate central heating, and by bring-

ing in relays of cyclamen (prefer-

ably the small, white, scented ones)

you could keep each pot for oo

more than a week in the house be-

fore "resting" and rejuvenating it

for a week in the cooler green-

year, as well as the scented freesia

you would bave bowls of gently

forced bulbs - hyacinths, dwarf iris,

crocus, early tulips, brought in in

batches from a plunge bed and

forced gently in the well-lit, pro-

tected atmosphere of the greeo-

house before being brought, again

in relays, into the sitting-room of

HELY LOADS?

the Fullers' house.

ANGLEYS

In the first three months of the

house.

gust and December, pots of sweetsmelling freesias would provide colour from January to April. Fat, blowsy amaryllis would flower through February and March, while anemones of the de Caen kind can be planted in pots in the autumn to explode io bunches of blue, purple and scarlet throughout March and April.

Turban-beaded ranunculus in pots could follow on in May and June from a September or October planting, and achimenes, planted in batches like the freesias, would provide flowers from July to September, So would showy tigridia (though they shouldn't be planted till April). Elegant, scented acidanthera and fat white chincherinchee would both flower in late August and September

Then you might turn to cycla-

EXTERIOR

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> conservatory by up to

30 degrees

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all types of

CONSERVATORY

Calendar for the greenhouse

january Use as frost-free rest house to revive plants such as begonia and cyclamen. Bring small batches of tulips, narcissi, hyacinth, iris in from plunge beds to flower in succession. Take root cuttings of Oriental poppy, anchusa, verbascum, Romneya coulteri. Sow salad crops such as saladini. Set out potatoes to sprout. Sow sweet peas. Start begonia and gloxinia into growth

February Start off achimenes. Sow broad beans and early lettuces. Plant anemone and ranunculus in pots. Sow half bardy annuals such as ageratum. snapdragon, nicotiana. Start dahlia tubers into growth for cuttings. Pot up gloxinia, and begonia.

March Repot overwintered succulents such as aconium and echeveria. Start can-

nas and dahlias into growth. April Sow Primula obconica to flower in

greenhouse in winter. May Shade begonia and gloxinia (under shelf). Pot on cuttings of fuchsia and geranium. Rest nerine, freesia and lachennlia by putting them in sunniest spot; they will oot oeed water (wake them up by watering again in July or August). Sow cineraria. Pot up begonia, gloxinia and streptocarpus.

June Repot auricula. Sow calceolaria. July Prick off or pot on primula, calceolaria and cineraria.

August Reduce watering of earliest batches of achimenes, begonia and gloxinia. Sow Brompton stocks for late spring. Plant freesias for early flowering (. Pot lacbenalia. Start cyclamen into growth by syringing repotted corms every day with tepid water. Sow schizanthus for spring flowering.

September Pot up lilies, setting bulbs singly in 6-7in pots. Continue to pot up freesias. Leave outside until November. then bring in to flower from late winter to early spring. Plant anemones for early flowering.

October Pot up a last batch of freesias for spring. Bring early batches of freesia and lacbecalia in. Pot June sown primula and calceolaria into final pots.

November Bring pots of Indian azaleas in for geotle forcing. Start to bring pots of bulbs from pluoge beds into the green-

December Briog more hatches of bulbs. Rest cyclameo, cioeraria aod primula regularly in the cool, damp coo-

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Spalding, Lincolnshire PE12

lily catalogue, offering five

top-size 'Regale' for £6.

7PP (01406 426216) has a new

'Citronella' for £5.75 and five

House Farm, Holbeach,

748 6666) is offering 10 nerines

acidanthera for £4 (plus VAT). J

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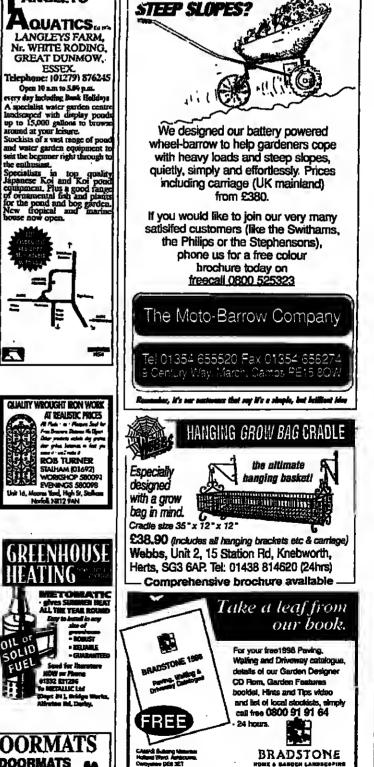
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The heat is on

A taste of ... Jamaican jerk seasoning. By Nikki Spence

-hot, spicy barbecued meat that is now so popular that it has become the unofficial national dish, and is being sampled all over the world. Here in Britain, jerk cafés and restaurants are starting to appear and jerk seasoning is also

available in supermarkets. "Jerking" - where meat (nriginally pork but now most commonly chicken)

is rubbed with a paste of Scotch bonnet peppers, nutneg, pimento, onions and salt and pepper, and then cooked over charcoal and green pimento wood -- can be traced back to the middle of the 18th century, and the

over a fire.

guerrilla war between ex-slaves (known as Maroons) and the English. Wild boar was a source ium Jamaica 98, which is currently nf food for the rebels, and the jerk seasoning was a means of preservation. The meat was slathered with the aromatic spice combination and wrapped in leaves before heing cooked in pits filled with bot stones, or grilled slowly

This secret way of preparing pork was mainly concentrated in the Boston Beach area in the parish of Portland, the home of the nriginal jerk pits. Then, about 15 years ago, it started to gain popularity. Jerk huts sprang up on roadsides all over Jamaica, and soon local companies such as Walker's Wood were buying pig carcasses, jerking the meat and selling it to local bars and cafés.

According to the founding director, Roddy Edwards, no one had thought of bottling the jerk seasoning itself until the company started to get enquiries from tourists asking where they could

The fact that people were bothering to write to us all the way from Amerwe were definitely on to something," says dumpling

In Jamaica "jerk" means just one thing Roddy, whose company now supplies Tesco, Sainsbury and Waitrose.

"Jerk seasoning does seem to have captured the imagination, not just in Jamaica but increasingly all over the

"I think that what's so special about it is that it isn't just about heat, but is a hlend of flavours that people really seem to enjoy.'

A taste of ierk When Jamaica plays Wales at Ninian Park in Cardiff

Wednesday, the usual stadium fare of hot dogs and burgers has been ditched. Instead. the crowd will be able to sample jerk chicken and

 Jerk isn't just for meat-eaters, according to the consortpromoting Jamaican food and drink in staff canteens in conjunction with Gardner Merchant. Apparently, jerk tofu and stir-fry veg have been going down well

it - including the BBC and London Underground. Enco Products, maker of Dunn's River Jamaican Jerk Seasoning, has produced a free Caribbean recipe booklet. Available with a large SAE from Dunn's River Cookbook Offer (IoS), Enco Products, Welham Green, Hertfordshire

with all the companies that have tried

For more tastes of Jamaica, try ...

Ackee, This fruit with yellow flesh tastes remarkably like scrambled eggs when cooked. Served with salt fish, this is the official national dish

◆ Callaloo. A leafy, spinach-like vegetable often used as a base for thick soup flavoured with pork or crabmeat • Escovitch fish - fish fried or grilled,

and then pickled in a tangy sauce ica and elsewhere made us realise that Festival - deep-fried, slightly sweet

Solid, write-on antiques

The stuff of ... status. A good desk is not only impressive, it can be a sound investment, writes

Sally Staples

up in husiness on your own, the most prestigious object in your office will be the desk.

It may be an imposing item of antique magnificence, or a more modest piece of furniture that will blend comfortably into a bome that is also an office. Whatever your needs, Jan Elias

choose from. There are partners' desks ten down for a small percentage of where two people can sit opposite one another, narrow hureaux with sloping £5,000 on an antique desk, and you tops and drawers beneath, hureau will find its value will steadily inbookcases and even old school desks crease." jostling for space in the shop showroom.

Most of the stock is classic Victorian, and full restoration work can be un- and many other well-known antiques dertaken on the premises. Many of the have passed through its doors. Curdesks are bought at auction and given a face-lift before being sold. Most prices copy of Chippendale's Nostell Prirange from £1,000 to £5,000, depend- ory desk. The Neoclassic style copy. ing nn the size, condition and age of

"Desks are a status symbol and they need to give out the right signals. In a doctor's surgery or a solicitor's office the desk itself and how it is positioned can affect the atmosphere," says Mr

The old mahogany and oak desks have solid wooden drawers – no ply-Whether you are the chairman of a wood or chipboard bases – and are multinational corporation or starting hand-dovetailed. These pieces of furniture were built to last, and often the (£160). naly resturation needed is a new leather top.

"No two antique desks are quite the same," Mr Elias continues. "And as an increasing number of people are now working from home they often want a distinctive desk with character that is at the Dorking Desk Shop in Surrey, also a nice piece of furniture. Also, it's Reignte Road, Betchworth, Surrey one of the largest suppliers of antique a good investment. People spend RH3 7EY (01737-845215).

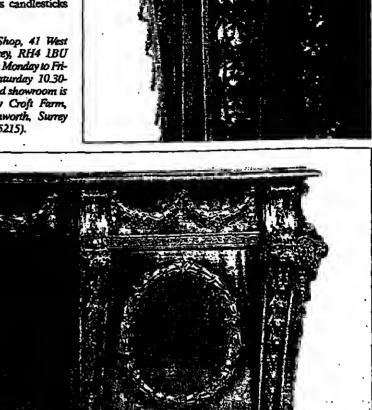
desks in the country, offers plenty to £15,000 on a car that will be writthat value in five years. But spend

> The Dorking Desk Shop has sold Sir Winston Churchill's desk. crafted in 1865, has superbly detailed, carved swags and flowers, and a smooth, black hide leather top.

The price tag is a cool £65,000. Among the desks, you can mpse a variety of antique furniture including a Victorian mahogany chaise longue (£1,450), a Victorian rocking-chair (£480), a grandfather long-case mahogany clock with special naval features (£4,850) and even a pair of brass candlesticks

The Dorking Desk Shop, 41 West Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BU (01306-883327). Open Monday to Friday 8am-5.30pm; Saturday 10.30-1pm; 2-5pm. A second showroom is now open at Stoney Crost Farm,





GAMES

On last week's Desert Island Discs on Radio Four, the mathematician Ian Stewart mentioned a probabilistic paradox that fools most people who are presented with it. It goes like this:

Imagine you are a contestant in a me show. You have answered all th questions correctly, and can now open one of three doors to determine your prize. Behind one door is this week's star prize, a magnificent new car; behind each of the other doors is a

You select one of the doors, and the game show host - who knows which door has the star prize behind it -then opens one of doors you did not select and shows you a goat behind it. He then offers you the chance to change your mind. Do you take it?

Most people, said Stewart, stick to their original choice, reasoning that they now know the car is behind one of the still closed doors, so the chance they have picked the right one is 50-50,

PSYCHOLOGICAL GAME OF THE WEEK WILLIAM HARTSTON

so there's no point in changing from their original choice. But, he said, this strategy is incorrect, for they will double their chance of getting it right if they change their mind.

I had met this problem before, and not totally believe it. I still was not sure that I believed it after Ian Stewart explained it to Sue Lawley. (He said something about people viewing their choice as a single event, when it fact it was two events, one before the door was opened and the other after, but when she asked him what his next record was I'm afraid I lost the thread of the argument.)

Later I went away and thought about it and finally convinced myself with what I think is a simpler argument. Think about what happens when you are offered the chance to change your mind. If you picked the right door the first time, then you will be wrong to change your mind; if you picked the wrong door first time, then

you will be right to change your mind. But (and here is the crucial point) you will have picked the right door only one in three times. So if you change your mind, you will pick the right door two out of three times. If you don't change your mind, you will end up with the right door only one in three

Despite the logic of this, it is, as lan Stewart pointed out, totally counterintuitive. You pick a door, your host shows you a goat behind one of the other doors - but you knew he could do that, so what difference can it possibly make? So to show your . strength of character, you refuse to change your mind. But unless you are particularly fond of goats, you will be

After convincing myself of the truth of all this, I tried an experiment on my children by conducting a series of trials with a pencil sharpener hidden at random under one of three mugs. On

each trial, one child would guess which mug had the object beneath it, then I would reveal one empty mug and ask whether he wanted to change his mind. After 16 trials, eight with a child

who generally remained faithful to his original choice, and eight with one who changed his mind most of the time, except when he changed his mind about changing his mind, my data table revealed that there were eight trials in which a change of mind had been registered, and eight trials when it had not. On the non-mindchanged occasions, only two had successfully located the pencil sharpener; of the mind-change trials, five had been correct - which is as close as anyone could hope to the theoretical prediction of one-third and two-thirds.

All the same, I still find it difficult to understand what difference it makes for the host to reveal a goat that 1. knew had to be there anyway.

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Jon Gower, 30, bass guitarist with the rock group jel

My dad played in a band when I was young: "Dave Champion and the Fabulous. Strangers". They got on really well, in fact. You couldn't call them famous, but they were well known in their local area asbeing a skiffle group that had moved on to

the surf scene. When he wasn't working, my Dad would play the usual sort of stuff with me: toy cars and things. Quite boring really, but he was good at conversations, and he'd make up stories and silly poems. He was always doing loads of different voices hundreds of them - and he still does it now. That's the sort of fun I had with him when I was younger.

Later on, it was real cars and motorbikes, which are not really games. and at school I played football, but only because you're supposed to. You know, the teacher would say: "Right, you've got

football now. Off you go," and you'd have to: 1 preferred track events and stuff like that, because it's more about personal achievement than beating somebody else.

mand kee

I don't particularly like having to rely on luck, so I find board games boring. They go on and on, and there's never any real challenge. All you do is spin a die and go where you've got to go, so you can't really control the game at all. I think things should be made to happen.

f played loads with my sister when she was younger. We still play together, but it's more teasing-type games. At the moment she's got a new boyfriend, and I really tease ber about that. She goes absolutely scarlet.

My dad is the world's worst tease, and that's what it's been like since we were younger. Although nowadays, more times than not, I'll get the better of him.

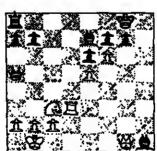
Jel's first album, 'All the Blinding Menace' (Kanteen Records), released this month, is available at all good record stores.

CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

Probably the biggest difference between the chess of today and the game of three or four decades ago is the speed at which information travels and theory changes. Even 20 years ago, players would rely on newspapers to get the details of games played a few days earlier in international events. Now they get impatient if they cannot find all the moves nn the Internet within five minutes of the game's finish.

One result is that opening innovations have a far shorter shelf life. In the old days, a player could hoard a new idea for months, or even years, and might even catch two or three opponents with it before news got around. Now, the pace of tournament play means any original idea has to be played instantly, before someone else gets the same idea.

This climate of throwaway originality was well illustrated by one game in Moosco this week. Viswanathan Anand has been having a good deal of success with a line of the Sicilian in which Black invites an attack on his king. In several recent games, Anand has shown some surprising resources for Black. In one line, however, Alexei Shirov spotted a killing improvement for White. He would, no doubt, have loved to save it for unleashing in an important tournament game, but with every sharp variation now being analysed by powerful

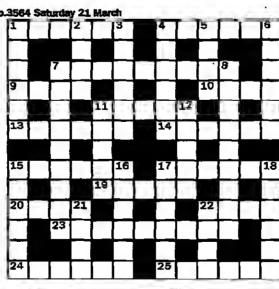


computers, he could be certain that if he did not play it at the first opportunity, either someone else would get there before him or Anand would discover it himself.

That is one reason why Shirov played 16.Qe3! in place of the older 16.Qf4 against Anand in the Amber Rapidplay event in Monte Carlo. The other reason is that Shirov is such an imaginative player, he knows that he can afford to squander nne good idea, for another one will surely come along close behind. In the final position (see diagram) 20...g6 21. Oxh1 leaves Black helpless against the threat of Rh3.

White: A	Jexei Shirov
Black Viswa	anathan Anan
l e4 c5	11 Kb1 Rd8
NB d6	12 h4 Bd7
d4 cxd4	13 Bd3 h6
Nxd4 Nf6	14 c5 dxe5
Nc3 Nc6	15 fxe5 Bc6
BgS e6	16 Qe3 Rxd3
Qd2 Be7	17 Rxd3 hxg5
0-0-0 Nxd4	18 hxg5 Bxg2
Oxd4 0-0	19 gxf6 Bxh1
0 f4 Oa5	20 Og l resigns

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS Murmur (6) 15 Protect (6)

Influence (6)
Make intoxicated (9) European city (4) Imprint vividly (4) Shape (5) Scandinavian country (6) 14 Window in roof (6)

17 Bank worker (6) 19 Sweetening agent (5) 20 Tardy (4) 22 Old (4) Astonish (9) Menace (6)

NZ people (6) NE river (4) Strip of material (6) Away from home (6) Destiny (4) Restricting rope (6) Direct (9) Study of derivations (9) Breakfast, dinner etc (5) 12 Channel port (5) 15 Choose (6) Sweet-sounding (6) 17 Zodiac sign (6) 18 Type of tyre (6) 21 Other (4)

22 At a great distance (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Dive, 3 Versions (Diversions), 9 Creed, 10 Impasse, 11 Tap, 13 Lookastic, 14 Spirit, 16 Rosary, 18 Inclement, 20 Eta, 22 Deplore, 23 Cargo, 25 Gold dust, 26 Omit. DOWN: 1 Ducat, 2 Vie, 4 Editor, 5 Soprano, 6 Obstinate, 7 Scenery, 8 Idol, 12 Principal, 14 Shindig, 15 ice-cold, 17 Recess, 19 Tick, 21 About, 24 Rim.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

	Game all; dealer West	t .
	. North	
	♦9643	
_	♥ 16	
	◇KQ976	
	♦ Q9	
West		East
AKQ7		◆1052
VA932		♥Q 1075
084		01053
4 862		1074
	. South	
•	♦ J8	
	VK84	•
	0A.J2	
-	◆ A K J 5 3	

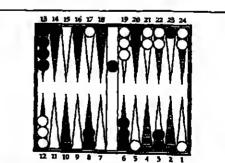
It is an old joke that you can always tell when your partner leads a singleton, for he always does so with his left hand rather than his right. (NB This is NOT serious advice.) Some similar ruse should be adopted (standing up, perhaps?) when you intend your card to have suit preference connotations. It would have helped on this

West, playing five-card majors and a strong no-trump. was reduced to opening One Club. North friskily overcalled with One Diamond and rebid his suit when his partner forced with Two Clubs. Losing patience, South jumped to Three No-trumps and all passed.

West led A and studied the fall of the three, two and eight closely. He continued with \$\infty\$ K and could now be sure of the position, for his partner's play had shown three cards in the suit. It was easy for him to lead \$7 to East's 10 and, apparently, equally easy for East to return a club. After all, West had bid the suir. This was not a success, and a pleasantly surprised declarer claimed the rest of the

What went wrong -- apart from West's failure to stand up? The spade position after the third trick was as clear to East as it was to West. If West had held a club entry rather than one in hearts, he would have led \$Q at trick two instead of the king. His real choice strongly suggested that be wanted a return in the higher-ranking suit - hearts.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



Should I take nr should I drop? Quite often emotion gets in the way of good judgement on this dilemma, but if we can eliminate the emotion, how should you decide whether to take or drop? First you must evaluate the positioo and decide on a game plan. Having decided that, you try to estimate your game-winning chances. If you expect to win one game in four, then you probably have a take. Even if you expect to win only one game in five, you may have a take if the game has a lung way to go, as owning the cube has considerable value.

The other critical factor is the gammon threat (if it exists). If you expect to lose a gammon, say, 10 per cent of the time, this can change your decision. The rule nf thumh is to halve the gammon percentage and add it to the basic 25 per cent take point. So if you expect to lose a gammon 10 per cent of the time, your take point becomes 30 per cent. Estimating the gammon potential of positions comes only with experience; as a simple guide 20 per cent nf all games played to completion (that is, not ended by a double) are gammons. Thus in most early or middle games your take point is normally nearer to 30 per cent than to 25 per cent.

Look at the position above. Black has just been hit and stayed on the bar. White now doubles; should Black accept? Black's plan is to anchor on White's 2point if he can, but he may not get the chance, as White will attack the hlot on the 2-point next roll. My estimate is that Black will lose at least 30 per cent gammons from this position. So his take point is 40 per cent. Can Black win two games out of every five? The answer is no - his structure is not good enough to contain White if he gets a shot, and his racing chances are minimal. Therefore Black should drop the double.



Catherine Hough makes glass bottles - but don't worry about filling them; they are a triumph of art over function. Claire Gervat considers the ultimate Mother's Day present

There is a good chance that many of in is a moot point, however. After all, this weekend's most harried shoppers will he those searching for the perfect Mother's Day present, and high on their list will be that perennial favourite, perfume.

But for the more imaginative giver, and lucky recipient, there is an exclusive alternative. For, no matter how much time the designers at Dior, Chanel et al dedicate to creating the perfect container for their product, there is nothing to beat the luxury of a custom-made perfume bottle.

Whether any of Catherine Hough's customers at her south London studio would really commission one of her sensuous handmade glass bottles for keeping scent

they cost more than their contents are likely to - around £200 or so for a standard range that retails for about £75 in such places as the Crafts

lots of people who collect bottles."

an individual design - though she has client to work out what they want, then you have to do a prototype. Council shop in north London.

when somebody commissions a bottle, they're usually looking beyond something that is a true one-off, a special piece. I suspect they're not used very often, though I take great pains to make sure the stopper fits perfectly. More often than not they are ornaments. There are, after all,

Commissioning an individual

piece is not a speedy process. "A cult for creative glasshlowers to find Glasshouse's workshop, where she her style is the large amount of work work on their own. Catherine has special design takes quite a bit of time. There are the meetings with the

That's what raises the cost." Although some customers have Catherine herself believes that strong ideas as to what they want, anyone who is less than certain need not feel dannted. To provide inthe function of it, towards having spiration, there are plenty of examples of Catherine's bottles, with their sinuous stoppers, textured surfaces and jewel-bright bubbles of colour, on display in the office at her shared studio.

.Catherine's love of glass dates

somewhere to train and work, so she went into teaching.

"It's only really in the past 20 or 25 years that studios with small furnaces have existed," she points out. The first one was The Glasshouse in Covent Garden, and having attended one of their evening classes she decided to go hack to college to do a specialist glass course. Three years later she left Stourbridge College of Art with a degree and a job at the came known for." crystal specialists Royal Brierley, making ornate, one-off pieces.

Her reputation for making exquisite perfume bottles started to defrom an early age. But at the time velop after she left Royal Brierley. she left school, in 1967, it was diffivelop after she left Royal Brierley. many, as well as in Britain.

was able to rethink and simplify her

"That's when I started using natural objects as sources for my designs; pehbles, rock strata, ripples in the sand. The perfume bottles were just something I enjoyed making. It was an interesting challenge to relate the bottle and stopper into one shape. And having started making them, I've made more. It was something I be-

Since then, Catherine's work has featured widely in shows, and there are examples in permanent collections in Sweden, the US and Ger-

One of the identifying marks of

glass over the end of a rod, to be blown out as the colour lines the

inside of the bubble. "I don't blow it out very thin, so you can always see the shape of the her perfume bottles would suit you bubble suspended in the clear glass," Catherine remarks. After that, the bottle is polished, textured and decorated in the cold workshop.

What this means is that Catherine needs only one or two days a Catherine Hough Glass is at Unit week at the furnace. Yet furnaces have to be kept running constantly, often not viable for glass makers to glass@aol.com).

that is done after the basic shape has always shared studios with other been created. But first a tiny amount craftspeople. Since early last year, she of coloured glass is wrapped in clear has had a large space in a workshop in Clapham, south London, owned by Simon Moore. It suits her per-

> fectly, she says. And should you find that one of perfectly, too, clear a space on the dressing-table and leave this page in a prominent position. Your family may well be grateful for the inspiration.

Two, Union Court, Union Road, London SW4 6JH (0171-498 6453; fax gobbling up fuel and money, so it's 0171-720 1046; e-mail hough-



Through the looking glass: Catherine Hough's work - from molten glass to translucent fantasia

Cut out and keep

Making it: parchment design is an addictive occupation, and the skills are surprisingly easy to learn. Sally Staples gets scissor-happy with the joys of creating a good old-fashioned greetings card

On Tuesday mornings Marian Perrett's dining-room turns into a cosy studio for six women who parchment craft. Few people will recognise the name, but most would know the product. Parchment craft is the art of producing those embossed and decorated cards that were popular in the Victorian era. They look intricate and complex to make. But, as Marian's students testify, anyone can do it.

The art of making these cards dates back to the 15th century, when it was taught by nuns in Colombia. As an eminently suitable pastime for young ladies, parchment craft thrived in Victorian times and is now slowly enjoying a resurgence as craft shops are offering

The students begin by tracing a design on to a waxy, shiny sheet of paper that feels a little like plastic and gives the effect

of parchment. The attraction here is that though not everyone can draw, we all learned to have all become devotees of trace things at school. Nor is there any need to be creative in design, as there are numerous pattern books offering a huge variety of themes - Christmas and Easter motifs, fruit, flowers, animals, hirds, abstract styles.

Once the tracing is complete there is the opportunity to colour the parchment-like paper to any hue. Using oil pastel crayons, Marian simply scribbles a few lines of colour on the back of the parchment and then wipes surgical spirit over the colour to stain the paper.

At this stage there is the option to use colour on the design itself. So if you want the flowers to be yellow, the hirds blue and the butterflies red you simply paint inside the traced lines as easy as painting by numbers.

"I always encourage people to start painting with a felt tip

because they feel safer with something that is familiar," says Marian. "With many people, if you put a brush into their hands they freeze."

But if you don't freeze with a brush the painting can be done with acrylic paints or even water-soluble pencils. Not everyone chooses to use colour; some prefer what is called a white-work effect.

The next stage is embossing. Marian provides each student with a pad to rest on and a set of embossing pens of different thicknesses, and they simply fill in the design with the embossing tool to raise it slightly from the parchment. Different sizes of tool will give varying

The parchment design can either be mounted on a card, or made so that it encloses an insert where messages can be written. At the end of a couple of hours even the most hesitant beginner will have produced a greetings card that looks utterly professional. It is not arduous, nor do you need artistic flair.

The women, who regularly have a five-hour session with Marian, take great pride in their handiwork and have an impressive portfolio of cards, Christmas tags, hookmarks, table seating cards, photograph mounts and even some threedimensional work.

Margaret Gidley, a retired

civil servant from Bordon in Hampshire, says: "You can have ing at painting. "I tried water-such fun with this if you like colours and wasn't any good. I painting, or the intricate lacework - done with a four-needle tool followed by some deft . with my hands, and this is marhand movements with a pair of vellous. I can copy exactly from scissors - or you just want to ex- the pattern books. Other people periment with the embossing to can draw in their own designs, get different textures and hut I don't have to worry about effects. There is something for that." everyone. And it is amazing how good children are at this craft. To set yourself up to learn parch-My grandsons, aged seven and 10, will sit with me at the as there are few tools needed. kitchen table for hours working Marian's sessions, where all maton cards. It makes a good con- erials are provided, cost around trast to dashing about on a £10. She teaches children at a skateboard.

"It's the first craft I've ever adults in Hampshire craft shops. done where you can take home For details, call 01428-713049. something good enough to give someone after just one lesson. And if you want to progress, the advanced techniques show how to make 3-D designs and parchto raise funds for motor neurone ment flowers."

Irene Mason, from Farnham in Hampshire, has been Bookham, Surrey. Entry costs £2. working on the craft for a year Details from Marian or Wendy.



Good on paper: Victorian parchment in the making

and has sent her cards all over

the world. So keen is she to

spread the word that on a recent

visit to the Dolly Parton theme

park in Tennessee she spoke to

sponsors about setting up a

parchment craft stall in the

park. "Very few people seem to

know about it in America,

although it is a popular craft in

borough, says that parchment

craft was a joy to find after fail-

think you can either draw or you

can't. But I like doing things

ment craft at home costs only £20,

local school in Liphook and

Her colleague, Wendy Stone,

teaches at craft shops in Surrey (01372-453452). Together they

are holding a demonstration day

disease on 17 October at The Old

Barn Hall, Church Road.

Pam Clisman, from Farn-

Australia," she says.

Photograph: Tom Pilston

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Lola's last orders

Rural pub meets big corporation: Duff Hart-Davis on a brewing row between landlord and leisure group

It's not often that you arrive at a puh to find that the landlord has just been banned from his own premises. But that was what happened on Tuesday when I dropped in for a hunchtime pint but in fact it failed, because widespread at the Ficece, in the Worcestershire village of Bretforton.

If a national competition were held to find the quintessential English pub, the Ficece would be a strong contender. Of medieval origin, halftimbered, leaning all ways, the building was once a farmhouse, owned for centuries by the Byrd family; and since Henry Byrd obtained a licence remained miraculously unchanged, in-

Regulars still speak reverently of Lola Taplin. Henry's great-granddaughter, who ran the pub singlehanded for 30 years until she died, aged 83, in 1977. The place is still full of the artefacts she inherited or assembled - wooden cheese moulds black with age; a cheese press weighted with a massive block of stone;

White circles painted on the floor in front of the fireplace are kept clean rocking-chair in the Pewter Room.

This latest turn of events must have Trust, with instructions that it should be maintained as a traditional village Campaign for Real Ale (Camra), and this at first seemed a good idea; advertising attracted real-ale freaks from far and wide, and the place became too popular for its size.

The next lessee was an offshoot of Camra, Midsummer Leisure, which in 1990 was taken over by European Leisure, a company that runs mainly upmarket, private members' snooker and billiard chibs. As landlord they in-herited John Griffiths (known to all to sell beer and cider in 1848 it has as "Griff"), a local man who is a former butcher.

pub's traditions: they declined to install piped music, fruit machines or television, and they continued to keep heers from numerous indethe Gloucestershire village of Uley, scended unannounced to scrutinise

a magnificent collection of pewter Fox's Nob hitter from the Highgate his stock and accounts, and he himsalvers dating back to Cromwell. Brewing Company in Walsall, CHB hitter from the Warden Brewery in Northamptonshire, and Whistling to deny witches access via the chim- Joe from the Brandy Cask brewery ney, and the ghostly form of Lola her- at Pershore, besides Brew XI from self sometimes still appears in the Bass, the holding company's main suppliers.

For nine years, in other words, Griff set her spinning in her grave. In her did his best to honour Lola's wishes. will she left the Fleece to the National But now, suddenly, the job has hlown up under him.

The trouble started last year, when pub. The Trust first leased it to the European Leisure began putting pressure on him to secure larger discounts from independent brewers, or throw their beers out. (Bass, with their enormous output, can undercut smaller operators by a large margin.) Then, on 18 February this year, he received a directive headed "Drinks Stocking Policy", which ordered all "units" to give "maximum support to Bass and their products".

The list of approved products in-cluded no real ales from independent breweries. "Certain other products" might be stocked, but these were "very limited", the directive laid down. The For nearly nine years everything rules "must be enforced vigorously". weot well. Griff and his wife Linda If managers failed to implement the British Legion club along the road. did all they could to preserve the new policy, the company would have no alternative but to resort to dis-

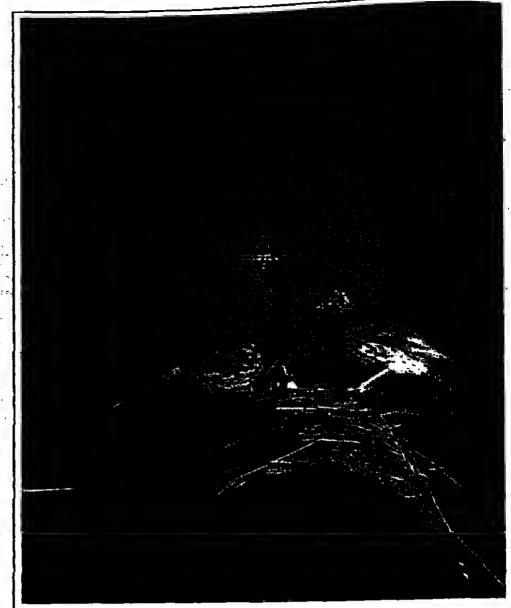
ciplinary action". This was too much for Griff, who handed in his notice. He was to have pendent breweries. Thus, at the mo- left yesterday, but on Tuesday a ment, you can get Old Spot ale from team from European Leisure de-

self was told that he would not be welcome behind the bar after 3pm. When I arrived at midday, the place was seething. Men and women in dark suits stood outside, glued to mobile telephones. A new young manager had been hastily imported from a pub in Stafford. Griff and Linda were gathering personal possessions. Regulars were bobbing in

and out, hemused and angry. Tim Fender, European Leisure's regional manager, was looking acutely uncomfortable, and explained that the whole upheaval was: the result of a mistake. A copy of the memorandum should never have. been sent to the Fleece, he said. He had tried to get Griff to reverse his decision. "The company's not going to spoil the pub in any way," he told me. "There's no reason whatever to change it. Why change things if they're going well?"

Locals are asking that very question. The darts team, the football club and the quiz league have already voted with their feet, decamping with the landlord to the bar of the

Damage may be limited by the fact that European Leisure's lease will run out next year, but the row does highlight the difficulties that arise when traditional pubs - of which few enough remain - fall into the hands of firms governed by managers, ac-



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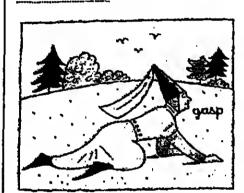
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With songbirds beginning to nest, householders naturally feel tempted to put out plenty of food so that the parents have a ready supply for feeding their broods. The RSPB used to discourage this practice, believing that it was bad for the health of the chicks; but now the society has modified its advice, and says that only peanuts are positively dangerous, because lumps may physically choke infants. If peanuts are dispensed at all, they should be put into containers with fine mesh, so that foraging hirds can peck out only small particles. Hygiene is also important: salmonella on the hird table can be just as deadly as salmonella in the kitchen.

In fact, recent research by the British Trust for Ornithology suggests that parent hirds distinguish between artificial and natural food. Although they take items such as peanuts and sunflower. seeds for their own consumption, they prefer natural sources of protein such as insects for their offspring - and there is nothing better than juicy caterpillars for inducing growth spurts. Whatever food they are fetching, the industry of small birds is astonishing; trip counters have shown that a pair of bluefits, for instance, may make more than 400 visits to their nest in a single day.

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When the Dole of Flour was temporarily stopped, late in the 18th century, the curse came into force. Family disasters culminated in the appearance of a false heir to the Tichborne fortunes. After a long trial, which used up much of the Tichborne family money, the claimant was discredited



and imprisoned. He was proved to be a Mr Orton, a plump butcher from East London. The promise made to Lady Mabella has been honoured ever since. The Tichborne Dole of flour is given out to vil-

lagers from the steps of Tichhorne House. Tichborne, Hampshire at 2.30pm on 25 March.

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Racing at home in Paradise

ON the Caribbean island of Barbados earlier this month, as preparations were underway for the Test between the West Indies and England, thoughts briefly turned away from the batsmens' track to the race-track for the annual running of the Sandy Lane Gold Cup at Garrison Savannah.

Such is the exodus of British racing's finest to Barbados for the winter, the island is nicknamed "Newmarket-ou-Sea" and this year's cast list included the trainer Michael Stoute and the jockey Pat Eddery. Sponsored by the hotel Sandy Lane, which is partly-owned by the legendary Irish punter J P McManus, a crowd of 25,000 - 10 per cent of the island's population—cheered home this year's winner, Ferdernico.



THE RESERVE AS THE CONTROL OF THE PERSON OF









PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ASHDOWN

GOING: Good.

• Leit-hand course. Pun-in of 170yd.

• Leit-hand course. Pun-in of 170yd.

• Course is south east of tawn near 85017. Uttoweter rail station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club 520 (OAPs 517); Tatlersells 512 (OAPs 53); Centre of joins course. ADMISSION: Cub 220 (Cub+5.17); talescens 2.2.4%), New York Course 5.2.6 CAR PARK, Free.

⊕ LEADING TRAINERS: N Pipe 38 winners from 134 numers (224%), N Balley 23-117 (127%),
O Nicholson 22-112 (216%), N Twinton-Daviser 9-100 (18%),
O LEADING JOCKEYS: A F McCoy 27 minutes from 96 rides (281%), A Magnire 24-110 (218%),
N Williamson 23-150 (177%), R Johnson 13-104 (12.5%),
O FAVOLATIDES: 24 who from 576 rides (278%),
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BETTING: 3-1 Carlogiord Gale, 11-2 Lady High Sherbt, 13-2 Winnow, 7-1 Supreme Lady, River
Bay, 8-1 Methods Likegole, Greenflag Princese, Go Mary, 14-1 others

1997. Tellicheny 8 10 7 J Cultoly 6-1 (Miss H Kng/n) 11 ran

1.15 TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE FINAL BBC1 (CLASS C) £20,000 edded 3m 2f £13,615

g (F-02 AMAZON LEY (19) (ibis 3 E Eales) R Rome 1 to 0.

BETTING: 5-4 Suambister, 5-1 Organ Recital, 7-1 Steal Meas, 8-1 Millenstord, 9-1 Freddle Muck,
13-1 Greeffle Agein, Galen, 20-1 Amazon Lilly, 20-1 Whiley Wonder
197 Lucicious Captarr 0 10 6 Mr C Storey 25-1 (Mr.) 3 Storey 8 ran
FORM GUIDE

Wileley Wonder and Organ Recital, 7-1 Whiley Wonder
197 Lucicious Captarr 0 10 6 Mr C Storey 25-1 (Mr.) 3 Storey 8 ran
FORM GUIDE

Wileley Wonder and Organ Recital are not straightorward rides. Hawing won nicety at
Huntragion, where Freddle Music (Olb better in and capable of better) was a disappointing
fascursta, 20 langths back in fourth, Organ Recital was back there soon after and held a
two-langth lead when lailing at the second last, leading Wileley Wonder (Sib worse of)
the length-end-e-quarier winner. It might be argued that Wileley Wonder (Sib worse of)
the length-end-e-quarier winner. It might be argued that Wileley Wonder (Sib worse of)
the length-end-e-quarier winner. It might be argued that Wileley Wonder (Sib worse of)
the length-end-e-quarier winner it might be argued that Wileley Wonder (Sib worse of)
the length-end-e-quarier winner. It might be argued that Wileley Wonder (Sib worse of)
the store that the second has been an beautificient to cope
with SWANDESTER is another matter. A bumper and hurdier winner, chasing clocks like
short melaing of Swantsister and ha has that put a foot wrong since saling (glocks like
at Wincardon but came back well to lead four out and there was no fulle witestoever in
the 11-length defeat of Millensford. For a horse making his chasing debut and coming
back after almost two years off that was some performance. Whether he has the scope
to confirm the form on 11 ib worse terms is debatable.

Selection, SWANESSTER

HYPERION

GOING: Chase course - Good (Good to Soft in places); Hurdles - Good to Soft (Soft in back straight), All-weather track - Standard. STALLS: Inside, DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle to low numbers best.

STALLS: India, DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle to low numbers best.

Left-hand, sharp course (Equitack surface).

Course in south-east of from on ESDER, Rel station acjoins course, AdvantsSiON: Cato & Family Enclosure St. CAR PARK: Cato ES; rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS (NH): G L Moore 11-42 (25,2%), J Gifford 9-44 (20,5%), R O'Sullivan 6-36 (22,2%), N Handerson 6-23 (26,1%).

LEADING JOCKEYS (NH): M A Fitzgerald 8-41 (29,5%), D Gellagher 6-55 (20,9%), J R Kavanagh 5-43 (19,5%), T J Murphy 3-30 (10%).

FAVOURTES (NH): 85-389 (45,1%),
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Challenger Row (240), Milke's Munic (440), Steambard (4-80-84), Scotla Girl (visored, 440).

2.05 TELETEXT FOR NEWS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) 7 E3,750 added 2m 3f 110yds

BETTING: 4-5 Badge of Fame, 8-1 Hai Hoo Staroom, Us de Librate, 8-1 Marray's Million, 10-1 Repeat Offer; 29-1 Golden Melody, 25-1 My Glendalough, 50-1 others 1997. Eta Agap Mou 4 10 3 P Holley 9-4 (G L Moore) 9 ran

2.40 TELETEXT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds £1,988

3.10 TELETEXT FOR SPORT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

1997: Red Bean 6 11 5 M A Fitzgerald 6-1 (K Vincent) 4 ran

4.10 Running Stag

4.40 Georgetown 5.10 Sharlakanndi (nb)

Lingfield

2.05 lle De Librate

2.40 John Tufty

3.10 Black Sta 3.40 Sadler's Realm

1	4:	DHL	WORL	DWIDE	EXPRES	S HANDI	CAP [BBCI
_	_						Uyos	
1			CAD (BE) (N dark b	des and units	a deservate us	Service walk		_АР МаСау
2			YOUR STOR	Y (14) (1) (Je de tricole clience	ny Wight Pi	R Webber 9 10 1	f-man	
3		ZANDER	(?) (John Du due, orange h	ggen) N Turst	on-Device 6 10	7		
4	-1382	NOROK	PRINCE (15)	(C) (D) (BF)	(Brien O'Kane	JUSTER	4 Micha	d Britanian (3)
5	4115	BEECH	TELD RYEN	(22) (Mrs M R	obertson) W (day 7 103	·	G Torney
8	11-375	BEGGA!	es banquet	(物) 医HPの	ddodki S Kelli	enel 8 10 8 vez, while cap,	-	_P Carbony
7		DERFER	G BRIDGE (1	75) (C) (IKJ:	fracti Mrs S	Johnson 6 10 0		R Johnson
8	2342	SHAP	COMMAND ((S) (A P Holla	nd) P Exclus S	10 0		B Fenton
8			ACCENT (19)	(Hertford Off	est Limited) J	H Johnson 5 10	0	N Williamson
			PRIDE (22) (C YORA: Disch	O) (Male in L	Balley) R Holle	rehead 7 10 0	(30)	& Wyrme
11	53480/	VISION	OF PEACE (7	01) (Bill Cahil) ati greet, yez	D Staw 6 10 ow stoewer, qu	6		CFSwen
30	Village P	4K 1160, W	2013 PROB 95	ap Weight: Di	I Peace But 1	ft.		2st 12to, Dou-
86	11111/24	44 2		Transport S. C.	Manage I and !	and the same and		

whether the trib, Wen's Price set stit, Nelson Of Peace Set 15th, Step Commend Set 12th, Double Agent Set 11th, Wen's Price set sits, Nelson Of Peace Set 11th, What's Your Story, 15-2 Beachtfield Riyer, 9-1 Double Agent, Nordic Prince, 11-1 Sharp Covened, 14-1 Denting Sridge, SS-1 others 1997: Winness Price 6 to 8 S Wynne 25-1 (R Hollinshead) 5 ran .

Stammins and the grotind has got What's Your Story home at Wetherby (2m 7t) and then over an extended three miles at Domosster. The drying ground and shorter frip may not sallow his stammins to come into play and it will be drifticult for into a complete a hard-risk, it's always assiste to concede weight on better ground and Niger's Lad at 5e from out of it, deeptie hearing to give 18th and more to his sen rivets. Niger's Lad is a genuine sort and bettled on really west to hold off subsequent winner Dans Poort at Mariest Resen lest month. Even a 6th rise stiff makes him the one they may all have to beat. Weight, plue it being late first run in the months, was what best ZANDERR at Chepsion least Saturday star hist looked the more Really winner than Quistaquay and Mon Amle at the way up the straight. With that to part him right, and the not inconsiderable store and a half the gets from Niger's Lad, Zander certainty makes a good deal of appeal, especially on his defeat of Red Bazers at Ayr last April, Novice or not, Nordic Prince is consistent and ocute'th be ruled out but one with a better, if less obvious, chance is Beggers. The eight-year-old heart had a lot of racing since winning two of his three starts lest season and was having his first run for present connections and went well will will either blowing up or taking to stay, perhaps a bit of each, at Newcostile 19 days ago. He can at least reverse the tom

SE	ay, pert	taps a bit of each, at Newcastle 19 days ago. He can at least in hird that day, Double Agent. Sets	Merse the to stion: ZAND
2	2.20	MARSTONS PEDIGREE MIDLANDS GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) E60,000 added 4m 2f	BBC
1	-43PS3	EUDIPE (FT) (7) (O.A. Johnson) M Pipe 6 10 0	- Donbt
2	212421	rojel blue, erseneld green sleeves, white cap, errented green spote DOM SAMOURA! (FR) (21) (B A Klipshick) M Pipe 7 11 11	C Made
3	4-3224	eminate green, scarlet hooped siesess and cap CALLIT A DAY (21) (C) (SP) falsulant Lane) D Nicholect 6 11 10	R Johne
4	14210	ANOTHER EXCUSE (17) (CD) (Gallering Syndicate) E Chulle (1) 10: yellow, not cross bells, airbox aleanes, met blas care	1 4_B Powel
5		INTO THE RED (21) (J Huche) Mrs M Reveley 14 11 4	G
6		KAMIKAZE (42) (Migra B Celeratory) K Buley 8 Ti 1	N WEE
7	/3003P	GMME FIVE (4) (J P McMarus) E O'Gracy (r) 11 10 2	CFS
8		FISSURE SEAL (34) (Detron Syndicate) G Hourigan (4) 12 10 4	P Carber
		UNA'S CHORCE (S1) (Fish & Pou Ltd) F Flood (40 10 10 3	FJ Floo
		OVER THE DEEL (11) (C) (George Totle) J H Jernson 10 10 0	A Thorris
		TOP JAVALIN (NZ) (14) (C) (Nt's Valerie Thurst N Havier 11 10 6	R Greens
		IAISS ORCHESTRA (17) (BF) (The B B Quo) Mrs J Harrington (m) 7 10 0 arrested green, aleanse reversed, white cap, green spots	
		KARARI (39) (Mrs Margaret Semperor) R Rove 6 10 0 arrange, black star halved alsowes, orange cap, black star	A Carrily (
		purple, expends green cross of formine, emends green cap	r S Dorack (S)
6	UPORA	WOODLAND'S GENERIE (11) (D) (Woodlands Lief F Prichard 19 10 0 white, black charms, black cap	C Lieuwillym

3.40 TELETEXT FOR HOLIDAYS GOLD CUP HCAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 57,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

1997; Tickerty's Gift 7 to 8 lid Balchelor (7) 11-4 (G.L. Moord) 5 rat FORM GUIDE.

SADLER'S REALLM ran a blinder when a four-length accords to Blowing Wind in the Importal Cup at Sendown a week ago and effould go one better. Tickerty's Gift has accord eight times at this track - five over course and distance including this event a year ago — the most recent when mesing all to defect Friding a length and a fivel fiest month, Garly Moore's eight-year-old could do no better than fourth, at almost 20 lengths, behind Nessun Doro when a hotpot here lest time, however, Ernest Williams right provide most duringer. He won his first two races this season at Warwork and Hurdingdon, where The Brewer (where of his three proceeding races and successful since) was a 15-length third. The Brewer is 180b better. Ernest William also accord on a return to Hurdingdon after month after belief in two out – he would probably excerd on a return to Hurdingdon after month after

time before and he is 30 lower than when fourth to The Proms at Newbury two weeks ago. Selection: SADLERS REALM ng two out - he would probably have finlished second - in Lucia Fortals race there the

4.10 TELETEXT WINTER DERBY STAKES (CLASS B) C4

dust blue and white check, dash blue steams, while cap, dash blue ster BRILLIANT RED (22) (CD) DA's M J George) P Hedger 6 6 6

ned and gray strippes, and alsover, gray extriples, and cap 1531-1 CHEWIT (17) (C) (Bellard (834) Limited) C L Moore 8 8 6

Lane, 14-1 Denoing Puddy, 25-1 Hewthorne Glass 1997; Tickertyle Gift 7 11 8 M Belchekor (7) 11-6 (G L Micore) 5 ran

11211- FARMOST (195) ED (W E Sturb Str M Present) 5 98_

—15 declared —

Ministram weight: 10st. True hand/cap weight: One The Deal der 11ib. Top Jacobn 9st 7th. Mee Crahester 9st 8bt. Kerer 8st 15th. Cool Rumer 8st. Woodlands Gentler 7st 7th. The Sections, 8-1 Blee Onderste, 10-1 Fissure Soci. (Simme Firs, 13-2 Another Bosses, 16-1 Into 7the Red, Over The Deal 28-1 Karst, 25-1 Top Jacobn, 40-1 Cool Rumas, 195-1 Woodlands Gentler 1897: Seven Evens 8 11 4 P. Neen 4-1 (Mrs. M. Reveloy) 10 cm PORM GUIDE

Never was a horse better named than KAMBCAZE. Clear when falling at the last in the Total Perel on this count 27 imports and he also marks two nationally thinders in the Section Na-

Never was a horse better neared than KAMIKAZE. Clear when falling at the last in the Total Final on this card 12 months ago, he also made two similarity blunders in the Scottish National, but for which he might have gone close, quite a feet for a novice. Kemikazis latest debade came in Ottowals race here six wests ago, when he was clear two out only to blunder and unseet Nigel Watday. He had the beating of eventual numerup Call it A Day and n clear round (sesser said than done) would put him in with a wonderful chance, as he diserround (sesser said than done) would put him in with a wonderful chance, as he diserround. National Title next time. There is a comparison or sorts with Kamicas on Dom Samourell in they book National Title next time. There is a comparison or sorts with Kamicas on Dom Samourell and conditions might not be quite in his terour today. The kink eventably have a tended runner in this race and their pick this year is Use's Cholos, who came from bethird to with a valuable race at Leopardsown in January. Another Economic, who came look befind to with a valuable race at Leopardsown in January. Another Economic, who came over from Instinct to with its race by a distance from the sthered Gele in 1995, has nur only once since the light National that year. Selection: KAMIKAZE

2.55 EXTERIOR PROFILES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS B) 27,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

1 /F-91 CALON LAN (15) (Howard Brown) is Historianan 7 if 10 M. A Fitagoald 2 42:22 DRAMATIST (26) (Also M. E. Rowling) Mis M. Rowland 7 ii 10 M. Williamson 3 ii 1-44. WTAL ISSUE (9) (Anno Duchess of Westminster) JJ O'Neil 6 ii 17 P. Carberry 4 00-203 (His Paddry 7) (Anno Duchess of Westminster) JJ O'Neil 6 ii 17 P. Carberry 4 00-203 (His Paddry 7) (Anno B. Blasse) Mis S. Juhreno 6 ii 2 Mis B. Durack 5 00-20 (His Paddry 1) (Anno H. March 1) 10 P. Carberry 1 P.

3.25 LADBROKE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 5f

4.00 WEATHERBYS TURF NEWSPAPERS "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

1 09(22 DAN DE MAN (15) (D) (BF) (David J Paules Perinsship) Miss L Stidal 7 11 E. A Thornian
1 1272 COUNTRY ORCHO (30) (D) (Mr. J V Kelroe) Mrs M Penley 7 11 3. G. Lee
2 10:03 BIG PERSES (28) (D) (R A H Parlant) P Date 0 11 1 C. Missale
4 500 COL MANCR (8) (Pierwold Membres Pening Cuby R Diden 5 11 1 C. Braul (8)
5 264-43 DAMEEN'S CHOICE (10) (M. Samer) Mrs M Jores 6 11 1 D. Byrne
6 8-572 JORDING ASIDE (28) (G) Hourigari) G Nourgen (19% 11 1 C. F. Breen
7 4 PADDINGTON JOHES (10) (Libra Singleson) D McCalls 6 11 1 S. Wynne
8 345-FF PERSIOSE LAD (MC) Sell (8) (Braund 19 McCalls 6 11 1 S. Wynne
9 30 PRESIDER CRU (R1) (Pichert Ogden) M Todhurler 6 11 1 P. Cartery
10 00(6-0 RESAL BLUFF (287) (Mrs M 17 Strenders) J McCarnotial 6 11 1 P. Cartery
11 00(6-0 RESAL BLUFF (287) (Mrs M 17 Strenders) J McCarnotial 6 11 1 P. Cartery
12 0000 YOU'RE ASOCIOUM (6) (16 Lurrerinan) 0 Stres 6 11 1 Lurrerinan
13 334- ALEANDE (283) (Pal Mat Remains) 1 Gode 6 10 10 Lurrerinan
15 305- ALEANDE (283) (Pal Mat Remains) 1 Gode 6 10 10 Lurrerinan
16 10 CE FEDERMANIS (89) (Loby Vestor) Mas H Kright 4 10 7 M A F McCoy
15 60F DEE FEDERMANIS (89) (Loby Vestor) Mas H Kright 4 10 7 M A F McCoy
16 Persis Desiral Choice, Presider Chu, 10-1 obtets
16 11 G Bradley 4-1 (C Bradley) 10 mm

FORM GUIDE

The being-in-form LOBSTER COTTAGE rarely runs a bad race. Successful at Plumpton in October on his return, he made the trains in his four outings before coming good again when 15 lengths too good for Northern Optimist at Stationd in Oceanises and he followed up at Donesster. Mouse Bird easily lended the odds against some week opposition over dourse and distance in Jerusny. David Gamdalick numer, a 16-length third to Aride hero Champieve here need time, but well a beaten fourth to Dontservethenest at Plumpton, might be the one to follow Lobster Cottage home. Selection: LOBSTER COTTAGE: BETTING: 4-4 Ambiguous, 9-2 Stemarciller Stock, 8-1 Fermont, 15-2 Renoing Sing, 8-1 Britisch Red, 16-1 Chevil, 11-1 Dignored Fisses, 12-1 Feylic, Reduce To Lose, 14-1 Major Cherge, 25-1 Hev-er Golf Glory, Puzzlement, 25-1 Drive Asserted, 66-1 Punisch 1997: no corresponding rice

FORM GUIDE There are plenty of in-form hones under orders for the first running of this \$50,000-added prize and it might well go to DIAMOND FLAME, who is the most sightly runner in the N-strong field. Peter Henrie's charge, despite citting from 5-4 to twice those odds, came home by it lengths in a course-and-distance macken lest month when making his debut and followed up at Victoerhampton a week upo, getting up close home to mester the useful Grahmen bet it singut. Fermost has been off the track since lending his first Prescott. Cheert, five times a Lingfield scorer – three times on Equitack – finished a two-end-half-length third behind Fermost at the Mederads track and, taking into account the fact Carl Lowther cannot claim the 3th, has a 17th put. However, with Cheert species of score beyond seven furlongs. Fermost one again prove the pick of this pair. Faylis is in tramendous fettle having completed a four-timer when getting home in a blanket finish for the Lincoin Tital at Wolverthampton lest week with Reduce to Lose — who want off seventhe — and slow-staring Hever Golf Glory bose up fourth and fifth. Refuse To Lose looks the pick of the first of the fiviled weights.

4,40 PRESS ASSOCIATION MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,000 edded 2m 4f 110yds 53,028 OBJUST CLOCK WATCHERS (21) (W R Share) J Bridger 10 11 10 7 P-425 LOGICAL STEP (62) (A E STATU O GARCOUS 6 TH TO Should be seen companied to the companied of the comp

The colored — 11 declared — 12-11 Bard, 15-1 Brook Bas, Lock Whitehers, Georgebows, 33-1 officers 12-17 Amber Spork 6 11 10 N Williamson 3-1 (D Gendolfe) 8 nn PORAL GUIDE — 12-17 Amber Spork 6 11 10 N Williamson 3-1 (D Gendolfe) 8 nn PORAL GUIDE — 12-17 Amber Spork 6 11 10 N Williamson 3-1 (D Gendolfe) 8 nn PORAL GUIDE — 12-17 Amber Spork 6 11 10 N Williamson 3-1 (D Gendolfe) 8 nn PORAL GUIDE — 12-17 Amber Spork 6 11 10 N Williamson 3-1 (D Gendolfe) 9 nn Portraga a fortragat ago but could again go obset in a proderate contest. Still, sight preference is for LOGECAL STEP, who ran below expectations against Calm Down have last time but had thicked running in the two previous cuttings — bathol Penaken Etts at Liccester, beatter only a head, and Caling Wild (who was sparking a head-rick) at Fortwell Fencing declarate (Real Maria Maria Caling Wild (who was sparking a head-rick) at Fortwell Fencing declarate Miller Miller and the same course need time and third to Maggie Strat, both at the same course, he was well beattern at Hurritangdon last time and is in first-time bibliours for the fencing bow.

5.10 TELETEXT FOR RACING NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$2,900 added 2m 7f SSS ROYAL SHREISBURY S) (J Cities Partnesship) Mrs M Jores 6 11 57

1 SSS ROYAL SHREISBURY S) (J Cities Partnesship) Mrs M Jores 6 11 57

2 00003 PURE SWING (19) (J K Leiterbox Mucheing Leit (H. M.) J Peace 6 11 4

3 05004 SHARAKANON (FE) (KS) (S Clough) J Krg 6 11 8

4 3-9072 ZASAN (25) (Mrs M C Secretar) J Cifford 6 11 8

6 07-P11 MISTER GENEROSTY (9) (Mrs J M Jayes) C Wesdon 7 10 2

6 SP260 BALLYHARRY (9) (D R Oberlé) P Wisherth 6 10 8

6 SP260 BALLYHARRY (9) (D R Oberlé) P Wisherth 6 10 8

Allebrain selight 10st Title harridosp weight Ballyharry 9st 80.

BETTING: 5-4 Sharkatevord, 3-1 Mister Generoelly, 7-2 Royal Sharestbery, 8-2 Zein Swinn St. H. Ballyharry. Svetog, 35-1 Bullyharry. 1997: Worlangforpearus 7 10 0 Mrs D Smith 5-1 (C Smith) 10 mm

Punters' Guide

UTTOXETER

1.15: MILLERSFORD, who weakened from the second last when finishing an 11 length second to Steel Moss (111b worse off today) io a 3m If novice chase at Wincanton last time out, had previously shaped as if this distance would suit him. Swanbister is an exciting prospect, but faces his toughest asagriment over feaces so far.

1.45: ZANDER, far from disgraced n finishing three lengths third to Onistaquey and Mon Amie over 2m 4f at Chepstow last Saturday, is the pick of the weights. Nigel's Lad, with Tony McCoy booked, is the obvious danger.

2.20: DOM SAMOURAL, an ouland-out stayer who impressed with the manner in which he butiled on to finish second to Earth Summit in the Welsh National over 3m 5f at Chepstow in December and deservedly ran out the seven lengths winner of the Greenalls Grand Nacional Trial over 3m 4f at Haydock last month - Call It A Day (8lb better off today) wellbeaten - should be seen to even belier effect over this marathon journey sod cao follow up. Kamikaze, clear when unscaling nis rider two out over 3m 4f here last time, looks the pick of the weights on that form, but needs to mprove his jumping.

NEWCASTLE 2.30: Peter Beaumont's yard is recovering its form and WESTWELL BOY looks the most likely one to hold off Alv Daley.

000 3.05: Lorcan Wyer can get FLAT TOP off the mark over fences.

4.05: JENNIE'S PROSPECT has bundles of stamina, a quality oceded on this tough track.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

wruns c

LINGFIELD

3.10: Mouse Bird did not have one of his going days when a distant fourth at Plumptoo a month ago. Lobster Cottage, in contrast, is in great heart and bids for a hat-trick today, BLACK STATEMENT must carry 13th more than his proper handicap mark but could surpris at hig odds. Like most of Josh Gif. ford's chasers, this eight-year-old has been in the doldrums but the stable's Mandy's Mantino and Glitter Isle bounced back to be placed at Cheltenham this week. This gelding in nowhere near that class but this is a weak event.

3.40: SADLER'S REALM'S form makes it difficult to oppose him today. At Sandown last Saturday be was second to the runaway Imperial Cup winner, Blowing Wind, who followed up in the County Hurdle at the Festival. This fiveyear-old runs off a handicap mark only 21b higher today.

4.10: Farmost's five victories on sand have all been at Wolverhampton. It may pay to rely on RUNNING STAG, a Lingfield allweather winner 12 months ago at today's distance. Chewit has won three times on the sand here - but each time at only 6f.

4.40: A wide-open contest but it is worth onting that Josh Gifford quickly turns out GEORGETOWN again after he ran out at the secand feace when his saddle slipped at Huntingdon on Wednesday. The stable seems to be running into

ate of the Sevourines:	1988	89 P	90	91	3	23	94	95 P	96 F	27
frinar's place in bettin	G: 0	0	2)t	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	_			15-8	12-1	25-1	10-1	12.1	14-1	44
terting prices:	20-1		6-1			_		_		_
roft or foes to £1 stal	ka: Pav	ourite	4-67.	3 500	and F	EVOUR	itee -1	_		_
roff or foes to £1 stale ercentage of winners	ka: Pav	ourite 1 1st,	e -£7.	3. Sec 3 3rd 1	and F	EVOUR	itee -1	_		_
roffs or foes to £1 stal ercentage of winners horiset-priced winner	placed : Bons	ourite 1 st, :	2nd o	3. Sec r 3rd t 3 (1991	and F	EVOUR	itee -1	150	nt-favo	arit
roff or foes to £1 stal ercentage of winners	placed : Bons	ourite 1 st, :	2nd o	3. Sec r 3rd t 3 (1991	and F	EVOUR	itee -1	1.50 1 = joi	nt-favo	arit

First Show

Utto	xete	r-	1.15	•	Uttox	ete	r — [1.45	
Horse	C	Н		<u>r</u>	Horse	c	Н	L	<u></u> J
Swind Aster	54	11-8	11-8	. 86	Boggard Barapaut	9-2	41	41	103
Organ Rechal	94	11-2	92	9-2	2mder_	4-1	41_	92	4-1
Short More	7-1	7-1	7-1	7-1	Niget's Lad	03	B-5	.41	5-1
Michigan	9-1	8-1	. 8-1	9-1	What's Your Story	7-1	13-2	7-1_	7:1
Predicte Muck	10-1	B-1	8-1	11-1	Beechfleid Figer	7-1	7:1	8-1	7-1
Gritors	9-1	101	9-1	12-1	Double Agent	91	B-1	8-1	8-1
Greatile Again	10-1	01	14-1	10:1	Nordic Prince	10-1	9-1	71-1	12-1
Arrestors Liby	20-1	74-1	14-3	14-1	Sherp Command	10-1	12-1	11-1_	10-1
Waley Wonder	16-1	16-1	204	20-1	Davidog Bridge	14-1	74-1	12-1	_16-1
Each way will	th Inc	dds, ph	CES 1, 2	3	Vision Of Peace	33-1	33-1	18-1	33-1
				**					-

C - Coral H - YA	im H	L-Let	vdes T	-The	Wireth Pride	33-1	33-1	33-1	_,
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DOTH SECTIONAL	4-1	41	4-7	41	Horse	C	н	L	
Carpleson	7-2	4-1	4-1	7-2	Ambiguous	41	41	4-1	
Call & A Day	7:1	7-1	7-1	11-2	Stepmentor Starty	9-2	4-1	9-2	
Unwis Cholco	7-1	11-2	<u>7-1</u>	7-1	Formost	92	25	7-1	
Miss Orchesics	P4	8-1	7-1	10-1	Pitening Stag	7-1	61	8-1	_
Pageiro Sant	B-7	10-1	10-1	22-4	Dillert Red	94	7.1	D-1	
Glaza Fina	_01	10-1	10-1	12-1	Cheek	_			_
Another Escape	12-1	10-1	14-1	10-1		10-1	10-1	10-1	_1
Over The Deed	14-1	14-1	12-1	15-1	Dismond Flume	10-1	11-1	10-1	1
into The Rind	20-1	30-1	16-1	20-1	Reliase To Lose	10:1	11-1	101	_1
Karar	18-1	20-1	18-1	14-1	Feyek	11-1	12-1	10-1	_1
Top Jeselin	25-1	25-1	25-1	33-1	Major Change	12-1	14-1	11-1	
Cool Runner	40-1	50-1	33-1	251	Hever Golf Glary	20-1	20-1	25-1	2
Woodlands Gan	150-1	150-1	150-1	1504	Drive Assured	30-1	33-1	33-1	1
Budipe	dat	dat	ctst	dat	Prozincent	20-1	33-1	25-1	:

Results

FAKENHAM PAKENHAM

2.20: 1. SPRINGFELD RHYMS: (Mr S Duracid 4-1 law; 2. Shevald Venture 20-1; 3. Lofty Deed B-1. 11 ran. 2, 1%, (S Golfings), Role: Each; C180, Each; 2.250. Dust Forecast: 54.60. CSP: £78.12. Those: \$405.87. Tho: £72.01

2.50: 1. STONEY VALLEY (Mr M Graph)

4-1; 2. Gatcig 5-1; 3. Chieppunci 8-1. 12 ran. 7-2 ft far Fockow (4th, Cookyawn Lady (ut. 12, shihd. (S Dowling), Role: \$300; £130, \$200, \$2270. DP: £1580. CSP: \$28.97. Tho: £91.80.

C - Cool H - Wilem HR L - Lacksoles, T - Tole

2200, 2270, DF. E1590 CSF: 22897. This: 197130.

3.20: 1. BASSEMHALLY (W. Manston) 9-1: 2. Craedding Frost 6-1: 3. Whee Advice 9-2. 9 ran. 3-1 fav Manor Miso (5th). 3, 11/4. (Mrs. 9 Syl. 7 bits: £1590; 9400, £200, £120, DF. 25850, CSF: £7346. Thisset £24044. This 25700.

3.50: 1. ANTHISLIAN FLYER (Michael Brathlen) 11-2; 2. Classic Engle 4-1; 3. Green Power 5-2, 6-ran. 9-4 fav Metry Cay (5th). 6, 1/4. (G. Prodromou), Toke £370; £270, £220, DF: £230, CSF: £2572.

4.20: 1. BROADWATER BCY (R. Garritty) 10-1 fav; 2. Swan Street 5-2; 3. Feldin 3-1.5 ran. 28, 4. (M. Harmmond). Toke: £180; £190, £100, DF: £2.20, CSF: £350, 4.90: 1. ASSAR LABLE (Michael Brathlen). Toke: £100; £120, £120, £130, £200, DF: £280, CSF: £273, This: £4220, J. Jackpot: £134250.

Jackpot: £13,472.50. Placepot: £5000. Guadpot: £1500. Place 6: £14404, Place 5: £5114. FOLKESTONE 2.00: 1. TOTALLY YOURS (A P McCoy) 1-4 fbr. 2. Golden Lity 16-1; 3. Heredoal Miss 50-1: 9 rsn. 2½, 1½, (M Pipe) Tota: 1:30: 1:30, 1:30, 1:33, DF: 04:00 CSF: CB41 110: 543.50.

Inc. \$4350.
2.30: 1. MYSTIC ISLE (J.R. Kasersch) 3-1;
2. Forever Dreaming 8-1; 3. Secret Bid 5-4;
8a. 4 ren. 3, 1½, (N. Gasside); Total 5id 5-4;
8b. 4 ren. 3, 1½, (N. Gasside); Total 6id 6id
DP: D840. CSP; 21845;
3.00: 1. VERIDIAN (M. A. Ritzgereld) 5-4;
8c; 2. Merany Seet 2-1; 3. Purple Ace 2-1;
17 ran. Shi-hd, 8. (N. Henderson); Total 5240;
2160, 210, 2170, DP: \$280, CSP; \$384, This;
2162.

EIGG STIG STAD DF: 8280 CSF: 6384 This: 51620.

3.30: 1. PEACE LORID (J F Tries): 13-8 fair; 2. Coetison Hero 2-1; 3. Dear De 5-2 fair; 2. Coetison Hero 2-1; 3. Dear De 5-2 fair; 2. 8 (Mrs D Haine): Tothe 52-0; 520. DF: 5280 CSF: 5250. Nr. Thumbs Up. 4.00: 1. POSH SPICE (J R Kannagh) event fair; 2. Seamman 100-30; 3. Ever Smile 11-4 5 ran. 1, 11/6, (N Henderson): Tothe 5280; 7-150, 6220. DF: 5280 CSF: 5270, 4.30: 1. WORKINGFORPEANUTS; (V Satisty): 7-4 fair; 2. Bome Day Soon 5-1; 2. Schlerus Star 7-2. 10 ran. 6, 3, (C Smith). Relac 5280; 7-12. In State 5203.5 This F550, 5.00: 1. BLACK SECRET (N Williamson): 5-1; 2. Rishing Press 17-2; 3. Cur Dawny 9-1; 14 ran. 11-8 fair Jungi (4/h). 3. 2 (C Egenton): Relac 5230; 7-230, 6:500.

SOUTHWELL 2.10: 1. SHADES OF LOVE C Rutin) SE-ior; 2. Hover Golf Passion 7-2; 3. Kinskilli, Mt Kate 9-2. 16 ran. 2/h, 1 (V Scene), This 2500: 210. LTQ. E180. DP. E340. CSF: E183. Tricest: 53735. This: 5720. 2-40: 1, GOLD CLIPPER (P McCaloft: 20-1; 2. Afa. Felia: 5-1; 2. Lanceshilli-Logend 10-1. 11 ran. 9-4 fav Bertico. Ship hd. 1/h. (M Ryen). Tota: 2740: 2460, 2280; 5220. DF: 57720. CSF: £1736. This £2800; NR: My Handy Man.

Each way a fifth this colds, places 1, 2, 3

86-1 86-1 86-1 86-1

NR: My Handy Man.
3.10: 1. MAGIC RAINBOW (A Fenior)
4-1 jr fav; 2. Branston Berry 9-1; 3. Slemdell Lane 7-1.13 ren. 4-1 jr jen fm Tet. 1%;
2% (M Bell) Tote: 24:50; 22:0. 23:0. 23:0.
DF: 22:50. CSF: 92:50. Ticent: 23:38 22980 GS*: NEED TROOM PRINTS

3.40: 1. SILICEN DALLIANCE (W Fight
45 fav. 2. Gold Park 14-1; 3. Oldrig;
Chuelde 15-2. 11 ran. 11/2. 2/2. (Lord HardIngdon). Tota: E180; E100; E340; E150 GS;
E230. CSS*: E182; F10: E4020.

4.10: 1. SHARP STEEL (C Rutter) 2-1;
2. Satishy Favour 9-2; 3. Top Floor 15-1 5*
ran. 4-1 fav Spring Season 2, /2. (GL Mont).
Tota: E1780; E350; E10; E370; DF: E550;
CSS*: E7457; Tito: E23300

4.40: 1. REAR WINDOW (R Suchdom).
5-1; 2. (Morram Bridge 8-1; 2. Operation).
14 ran. 5-1 fav Card Agen. 1/4. 6. [G Mc
Courd. Table: E3806; CS20; C330; E280 D*
228350; CSS*: E113.72; Tricear: E81754, Tito
E35550.

 After winning the Champion Hardie on Tuesday with Istabraq, J P Me-Manus was on the winning mark again at humble Fakenham yesterday. sailable, the first horse McManns has had in training with Neville Callegian. opened his account over Jumps in de-cisive fashion in the maiden hardle-





10 DOWN and Design distriction, brown alsowed and cap
11 250-M REPUSE TO LOSE (7) (C) (BF) (LC Smith) J Explained 4 6 6 J. Ti
12 4262- FIUMKING STAG (USA) (TOS) (CO) (Friend J Coharl) F Might 4 9 6 R. Cochar
13 DOS-H STEAMROLLER STANLY (21) (737) (F M C) (207) C (7207 5 6 6 G. Car
14 DOS-H STEAMROLLER STANLY (21) (737) (F M C) (207) C (7207 5 6 6 G. Car
15 DOS-H STEAMROLLER STANLY (21) (737) (F M C) (207) C (7207 5 6 6 G. Car
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19 DOS-H STANLY (21) (737) (F M C) (207) C (7207 5 6 G. Car
19 DOS-H STANLY (21) (737) (F M C) (737) Set 1b: peline black clar, chack cap rises, 18-1 Red Bean, 25-1 Black State- 14 000-tr AMERGUOUS (14) (Abdulet Sased But Hot) 0 Loder 5 5 1 __ emeral of green, black epocation, striped disease, embedd — 14 declared — 14 declared —

BETTING: 7-4 Westwell Boy, 2-1 Aly Deley, 9-2 Keamore-Speed, Wayuphill, 12-1 Vallant Wernfor 1977. Alphaer (LSA) 8 10 10 H Gentity 7-4 for (M is Easterly) 4 1an Property 1-4 for the Common of the Co

3.05 NORTHUMBERLAND NOVICE CHASE (CLASS SKY

3.35 ST MODWEN PROPERTIES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,500 added 3m E3,711 1 23224 LINATHEN (19) (D) (EF) Pårs JA Niver) Nis Mi Pervisy 5 ti 10...
2 SEPTOL DANNI MISSION (E) Pårs Juraler E Pallicar) T Esstetty 6 ti 0...
3 4-344 SEVEST WISELY (15) (CD) (A G Chappa) M Hammord 6 ti 2...
— 3 destand —
BETTRIC: 19-11 Linktun, 15-8 Invest Wisely, P-E Daves Mission.
1997: Puresske 6 ti 10 R Garaty 5-2 (M W Essietty) 6 ran

4.05 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m af £3,035 HIGHDLE (CLASS II) EAGUD BODGO 271 41 23,033

HIGH STAN (89) (ID) (IDF) (IM Chicked LLango 7 11 31 7 10 31 7 1

4.35 NORTHERN RACING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 110yds

اصكذا من الاعل

17/RACING

Rancour runs on over ruined Business plan

Richard Edmondson Racing Correspondent

COOL DAWN, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, was out enjoying himself in the West Country sunshine at the yard of his trainer, Robert Alner, yesterday morning, hut nearby the day was anything but

At Manor Farm Stables, the home of See More Business, Paul Nicholls was still seething nover the manner of his muchfancied horse's removal from Thursday's Blue Rihand of steeplechasing.

Britain's great hope was carried out at the seventh fence after the stricken Cyborgo, and his partner Tony McCoy, swerved across him. Racing folk are used to the slings and arrows of their capricious sport, but this relative H-bomb was too much for See More Business's coopections to bear.

The stewards concluded that the incideot was oo more than an accident after hearing that MeCoy shouted over his predicament to fellow jockeys. Timmy Murphy, See More Business's jockey, said he heard

Nicholls himself had to be restrained by his party from expressing his true feelings oo Thursday, and yesterday he was restraining himself. "Everyone could see what happened and Paul doesn't want to add aoything to that," a stable spokeswoman said. "He's very disappointed and angry."

The full reason for the wrath has yet to emerge, but the Business team are not happy. "All I wish to say is that racng people in general must look at the tape and come to their own cooclusions," Paul Barber, the horse's joint-own-🗪r, added.

"I wish Robert and Sally Alner, and Dido [Harding, Cool Dawn's owner], who are great Blackmore Vale hunting people, a wonderful Gold Cup. I've known them for years and it's super for them. It's their wonderful day. I don't want to be seen as a had loser, but it does take a hit of taking."

Cyborgo himself is not in a. very good way. Martin Pipe was talking darkly about serious after the Gold Cup, and the . dust settle and talk to the own- final day. eight-year-old's exact injury has er." Alner said. "He is in the

Dom Samourai: Landed the

Greenalls Grand National Tri-

al at Haydock last time. This

placed in the Welsh National

and never stops improving.

Call It A Day: This dour stay-

er was third behind Ottowa in

prior to his error, by Kamikaze.

Lacks finishing speed but may

fight out the minor placings.

Annther Excuse: The 1996

winner of this race who has had

only one run this term. A bold

....

. . .

4.00

200

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199 42 50



Cooling down: After his exertions in winning the Gold Cup on Thursday, Cool Dawn is led yesterday along the hedged lanes near his Dorset stable by his trainer, Robert Alner

spokesman said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Cool Dawn was probably feeling very proud of Parm as immediate plans for his victory bow looks likely to take place in either the Whitbread

solutely sure of the diagnosis at has been to Ireland hefore so had several pondering if his very for three to four weeks de- da Pearl probably had the hopresent," a Pond House that could be an option, but there will be no quick decision."

Cheltenham was also notable for revealing why there is himself yesterday at Locketts no such beverage as a Magnire Festival cocktail. The two simfuture were being drawn up. A. ply do not mix. Adrian Maguire missed the previous three Festivals and may have wished this Gold Cup or the Irish Grand one had passed him by as well. National, in which he finished He left without any form of trothird two years ago. phy unless you include the bro-He will probably have an- ken collar-bone he sustained in roblems with the horse's back other run but we want to let the a quite terrifying crash on the

Maguire's fall from Zabadi

jockey's injuries are oot, however, as bad as first feared, though he may himself not see his crimpled collar-booe, concussioo and removal from

as any great consolation. "Adrian is going to be okzy." Robert Parsons, the jockey's agent, said yesterday. "He was a lot happier last night and had something to eat. He should be most emotional moment of the out of hospital some time this week. morning.

yel to be specified. "He's still in Whitbread and looks incredibly and coosequeot high-speed days out due to concussion and others. The triumphs of Ista-home holding the keys at the yard, but we're oot ab- well handicapped now. And he squashing from Sublime Fellow I would have said he will be out braq, French Holly and Flori- Wormwood Scrubs.

life might be taken away. The pending oo the collar-bone, so he could be back for the Whit-

ing about a Cheltenham Festival which once again surpassed Grand National consideration its improbably theatrical billing. there is still a place for the unlikely and lowly, while One Man's Oueen Mother Champion Chase was perhaps the

tel switchboards buzzing away io the Cotswolds yesterday morning as long-term bookings pinged in.

By then we will still be talk-We have them to look forward to as we must anticipate

two stones out of the handi-

Woodlands Genhire: No hope.

Conclusion: The hrave little

grey DOM SAMOURAI goes

inlo this marathon with rock-

solid form and will be tough to

beat on the evidence of his

Greenalls Grand National Tri-

al victory at Haydock. Kami-

kaze is the main danger but has

a habit of making a costly

mistake wheo the pressure is

oo. Call It A Day is a geouine

stayer with a hit more class

than most of his rivals, and can

improved traffic arrangements Cool Dawn was proof that at the course. Getting out of Cheltenbam after racing can be like getting out of Alcatraz. It must also be hoped that Edward Gillespie and his boys select their car park staff a little more cleverly in 1999. There were Greatest of all though was yeomen of the gate last week "He has definitely got 21 the fact that this Festival set up who would have been more at

THERE were many who sushad ridden in his last Derby while Lingfield uses the rather be taking a "sabbatical" from roller Stanly (4.10), who has imlems with his weight. This afternoon, however, Swinburn won impressively over this time since, and while the Winter Derby oo the Equitrack at Lingfield is oot quite as prestigious as the original at Epsom feature event of the day is still in June, it will still be a significant moment in the career of one of Britain's most popular

Stanly can

Flat jockeys. Swinburn will partner Drive Assured, trained by Clive Brittain, in this oew contest, which is worth a very respectable £50,000. By coincidence, his mount is also returning from an 11-month absence, having not reached a track since finishing third io a handicap at Leicester last April. His jockey, however, has been riding regularly in Dubai for the last few weeks, and could return there for the Dubai World Cup

a week today. "Walter will ride at Doncaster next Thursday, then there is the possibility he could get a ride in the Dubai World Cup," Nick Jacksoo, his agent, said yesterday. "Otherwise he will ride at Doncaster oo Friday and Saturday too. He wants to get looks leniently weighted, and tomorrow out of the way first should ensure that his suphut he has been riding out virtually every day since he got back and he is very pleased with his weight. He hopes that by the at Uttoxeter is the Tote Novice Craven meeting he will be able to do 8st 8lb.

"He rode Drive Assured in work on Saturday morning and some useful rivals and will oot he was pleased with him, al- offer much value. A more apthough the horse is unproven on dirt."

lempt to raise the profile of all- vantage of a very fair handicap weather racing, which has oow mark on his second run for been with us for 10 years and Steve Kettlewell. is receiving something of an image makeover. A new name may be next - "four seasons racing" scribers to Sky Sports, but while is thought to be the favourite - a dish will seem indispensible though this may prove to be as come Northumberland Plate futile as football's attempt to day in the summer, today's ofswitch from the succinct, fa- fering makes little appeal. miliar "linesmen" to mealy- The Tote is to team up with

interesting one, however, with Farmost and Running Stag, first and second in another valuable all-weather event, the customers," Peter Jones, the Wulfrun Stakes at Wolver- Tote's chairman, said.

spoil return for Swinburn

among the contenders. The surface at Wolverpected that Walter Swinburn hampton, though, is Fibresand, when the jockey announced al- different Equitrack, and it may most a year ago that he would pay instead to side with Streamthe saddle to overcome prob- proved considerably for the switch to the all-weather and has will ride in Britain for the first course and distance on his last two starts.

hampton last December,

Swinhurn's return will turn attention to Lingfield, but the the Midlands Grand National over a trip just two furlongs short of that for the National at Aintree itself. After a geoerally excellent week for the punters at Cheltenham - one rails

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Millersford (Uttoxeter 1.15 NB: Dom Samourai (Uttoxeter 2.20)

bookmaker alone is rumoured to have finished the meeting £300,000 down - many Irish visitors may have decided to exteod their trip until the weekeod, and there is much at Uttoxeter to attract them.

A third of today's field is trained io Ireland, and the ooc to catch the eye is Una's Choice (next hest 2.20). The winoer of a handicap at Leopardstown in January, Francis Flood's runner porters can afford eveo more duty-frees on the way home.

The main supporting event Chase Final, which will probably fall to Swanhister, although he must give plenty of weight to pealing bet is in the handicap hurdle, where BEGGARS BAN-The Winter Derby is an at- QUET (nap 1.45) can take ad-

At Newcastle, meanwhile, there are three races for sub-

mouthed "referees' assistants". Sporting Index to offer spread-Today's race is certainly an betting facilities, including on the racecourse. "Spread betting is an important area, particularly among our higher-staking

Dom Samourai has courage for marathon Top Javalin: A course winner

and the old man of the race at 14. A shadow of his former self. I feel.

Kamikaze: Looked certain to the Uttoxeter race dominated, win two valuable events at this course before parting company with his rider. Kim Bailey's runner is clearly prone to lapsfare better if he is held up for his challenge.

jumper who stays all day but lote The Red: Failed to finish Chase at the Festival oo Tues- icapped 10-year-old may prove the short list.

courageous little grey was also on his seasonal reappearance The former National Hunt jockey Steve Smith Eccles (right) gives a runner-by runner analysis of today's Midlands **Grand National Chase at Uttoxeter**

> day. He is well handicapped the pick of the Irish raiders off hut made mistakes early on at just 10st 3lb, but is prone to the Cheltenbam.

es in conceotration and may Fissure Seal: Irish runner who Over The Deel: A one-paced

Gimme Five: Pulled up in the many a day.

— 18 disclared — BETTRICE 7-4 Chempagne Friend, 5-2 Conto, 11-2 American Pie, 6-1 Storad Innoculate, 18-1 Jovian Porei, 14-1 Portock Castle, 16-1 others

3.15 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,200 added 2m 3f 110yds

odd mistake.

is well-handicapped but has not third in the Durham Natiooshown any worthwhile form for al at Sedgefield over three and a half miles. A grand old war-National Huot Handicap Una's Choice This well hand- rior in his day hut oot ooe for Nock, can work the oracle

- 18 Sectored BETTING: 5-2 Printemps, 3-1 Units Serves, 5-1 Tap Stone, Don't Worry
Miles, 8-1 Standed, 12-1 Melody Princess, 16-1 Basino Script, 20-1 others

4.50 CHARLIE KNIPE HUNTER CHASE

1 JON-13 BUZZ OTTHE CROWD [16] (CD) (SP) New Attended 11 127_

2 31-35 MIGHTY FALCON (15) (15) Mis H Tory S 2 4_Miles E Tory (7)

(CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

whose recent form suggests that he does oot retain his old eothusiasm for the joh. Miss Orchestra: Another

moderate campaigner who failed to justify favouritism last time. Will find it tough to compete with the principals. Karar: Reliable but out of his Cool Runner: Not even Senor

El Betrutti's trainer, Susan with this individual, who is also finish in the money.

	3	61-542	STEREND JOHN (5) (D) Mrs D Thomas 12 to 12_Guy Lands (5)	4 32/1-U BIT OF AN IDIOT (5) CMortock to 12 0 Air M Armytage
đ	4	325-F	LUCKY EDDE (18) (D) P Hoots 710 11	5 UO-PSZ CAMESTER CASTLE (8) JE Price 10 20_16 KR O'Ryan (7)
	5	232P0R	TANGO'S DELIGHT (40) R Baker 10 10 0 V Statiery	8 53-2 HIGH PADRE (83) (D) Mas P Cherrisings 12 12 D. Mr M Posterior (7)
			DATEN CHANCE 29 (CD) H Harris 12 10 0.14: O Nichail (7) B	7 PPF STRONG TRACE (PZI) F Mathews 9 12 0 Mr S J Graham (7) B
3			- I declared -	8 4FFUZ THE RUM MARKNER (7) Mrs J Stefan TI 20_Mr J Jukes (5)
	150	HOURS I	Oat, True weights: Sango's Delight Det 7th, Desert Chance Det 4th.	- 8 declared -
	Æ	TIME:	1-4 Who's To Say, 2-1 Sheek: Please, 9-2 Shreed John, 8-1 Lusky	BETTING: 8-1 Viridian, 5-2 Batz O'The Crowd, 11-2 Bit Of An Idiot, High
	Edit	de, 12-1	l Tango's Delight, Davin Chance.	Padre, 6-1 The Rom Marker, 10-1 Mighty Felcon, 20-1 others
′	- [Z	1 20	BONUSPHOTO NOVICE SELLING HUR-	5.20 DOUBLEPRINT NOVICE HANOICAP
5	1	T.E.U	DLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 1f	5.20 DOUBLEPHINI NOVICE MANOICAP
í	1	nezin.	LITTLE SERVING (10) (C) J. Harrings 8 Tt 1 D. J. Berchell	HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 3m 2f
í	,	D	SEANO SCRET (128) Ms 3 Wilerte 5 ft D_Sophie Mindel (5)	7 P-1545 LAUREN'S TREASURE (10) Mrs S Williams 7 11 10 B Fersion
	3	34/30	PRINTENPS (USA) (8) M Wildrech 11 11 0 D Painter (7)	2 52/23P SAUCY HUN (14) (0) P Hatt 8 10 ft E Husband (3)
)	ě	44-DPD	SPENCER STALLONE (28) Greene Roe 5 11 0 S Graham (7)	3 P32405 YOUNG TYCOON (NZ) (15) AJ Wilson 7 (07
1	5	0/204	TAP SHOES (250) R Sater 6 11 0 6 Shenkin (7)	4 535-45 MISS SECRET (102) C Mishel 8 10 4 B McNell
	8	B-000	TORO LOCO (68) Mass J Women 8 to 0 Gary Lyons	5 - COKSZ GUIET MOMENTS (5) (ISF) P Murphy 8 10 1 J Goldstein (7) V
-	7	0-F	VEHICLE BEACH (5) R Simpson 8 71 0 Goldstafe (7)	8 -0360P DANZANTE (30) R Stronge 8 to 1
		4000	MELODY PROVIESS (16) OCHEES TO F Stattery	7 00360 CLUBS ARE TRUMPS (10) P Rich 7 to 0
-	8	0-00P	TAFZALETTE 69 P Negram 8 19 9 S Corrett	8 ED46 PROLIFIC AGENCY (53) F Murphy 5 10 0 Mr O McPlate (5)
-	10	S	DON'T WORRY MIKE (F66) J Spearing 4 to 8 R Durwoody	9 UDD400 HYDESELLA (14) Mrs T Pikington 8 to 0 V Shattery
3	11	OSET?	SHADED (19) P Rotlord 4 10 8S Borrough	10 F/P000 BELLDORAN (S) T Greened 7 10 0 GUston
,	5	0	SUBAROO SAM (25) J M Bradey 4 to 8T Describe	TO 6450-8 FRESH DELIGHT (14) R Curis 8 100 J Leech
	13	600	TOMOTHY GEORGE (5) & Baking 4 to 6	2 POP-OP THE CHEESE BARON (58) S Melts 7 to 0
,	14	0	COCHITI (23) P Hast 4 10 1 E Hosbiert (5)	19 000 PHYTHM AND BOOKE (7) J Tuck 8 10 0
	10		PORCE DIVINE (FR) (5) M Plos 4 10 1	M PPPUP SEA SCAMP (100) IT Minty 10 100
	15	PU	TYROLEAN DANCER (F26) A Cramberlah 410 L.C Webb (C)	% DONS THE CADFLY 52) C.bres 8 to 0
			- 18 declared -	The same of the sa

- 17 declared 17 declared National Weight: 10st, Two hendings weights: Clube Are Trumpe & Position
Agency Set Bb, Hyderollis Set Sb, Selbban Set 4b, Itah Delight & The Clause
Beron Set 3b, Rhythra And Booze Set 1b. See Scamp Ref, The Gedily Set 15b,
Milly Le Mose Set 12b, Cern Bye Set 11b. Security is second out 1225, Critic layer day that Property Researce, S-1 Second Men., Young Typodos, Deceanies, 10-1 Miles Secret, Prolitic Agency, 12-1 others

4 MYND RUISHING GRENADIER 250 CD M Februsion-Godiny 8 9 8.

9.30 EMERALD ISLE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 1m 1f 79/ds

05-00 MAYDORO (50) (CD) M Dods 588. 628000 MULLAGH HRLL LAD (2) (C) N Literacion 5 9 8

0-0000 WED CITY (4) R Marvin 4 88 ...

Hereford

may be outpaced.

HYPERION 2.10 Stoned immaculate 2.45 Ashwell Boy 3.15 Darakshan 3.50 Lucky Eddle 4.20 Printemps 4.50 Buzz O'The Crowd 5.20 Young Tycoon

GOING: Good to Firm.

Popit nand course with 300yd run-in.

Course is N of city on A49. Hereford station im. ADMISSION:
Club Ct3: Tattersals F02. Course enclosure 25. CAR PARKE Fee.
LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 33-97 (34%). N Telecon-Device 29103 (282%). N Henderson 14-30 (46,7%). P Hobbe 14-53 (222%).
DEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 12-51 (28,5%). M A Fitzgerald 11-46 (28,9%). R Johnson 9-86 (10,2%). R Farrant 8-49 (63,5%).

FAVOURITES: 25-534 (39,9%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Force Divine (4,20); Strong Trace (450);
Culet Moments (visored). Clubs Are Trumps (visored) (6,20).

Outer Momenta (visored), Clube Are Trumps (visored) (6.23).

2.10 BONUSFILM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

1 000F ANOTHER RAMPLS 26) C Motock 8 ft 2 JA MoCarity
0 8006MG CLEVER (115) K Comerced 7 ft 2 Gary Lyons
4004 BROWN MELOPY (16) Mrs C Johney 5 ft 2 Gary Lyons
5 100FP FOLDING (61) Mrs A Bordey 7 ft 2 Dunwoody
5 100FP FOLDING (61) Mrs A Bordey 7 ft 2 Dunwoody
6 0040 FRANKE MUCK (16) N Heaten Dunks 8 ft 2 J Galdelen (7)
8 0040 FRANKE MUCK (16) N Heaten Dunks 8 ft 2 Gary Lowle (3)
9 0150 JOYAN POND (52) H Hoyans 8 ft 2 Gary Lowle (3)
0 0150 PORLOCK GASTLE (56) P Richers 5 ft 2 Special Street (1)
0 0150 FOR LOCK CASTLE (56) P Richers 5 ft 2 Special Street (1)
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0 0150 FOR LOCK CASTLE (1)
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0 0150

7.00 Naked Oat 7.30 Shanghai Lil 8.00 She's A Gem 8.30 Petoskin 9.00 Bnld Aristocrat

3.50 DOUBLEPRINT HANOICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,500 added 2m 25611 MUSIC PLEASE (25) (CD) Mics V Williams 6 11 3... 8 Kelly (7)

7.30 LEPRECHAUN CLAIMING LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 1m 4f

4-450 ZERMATT (ZI) M Libre 8 8 4 M Elemer 6 V 15222 RFZ20 RIPD (12) (D) N Libre den 8 9 2 A BicCartin (5) 7 8 0-450 RIPD (12) (D) M Elemer 10 M Libre den 8 9 2 A BicCartin (5) 7 8 0-450 RIPD (12) (D) M Elemer 14 9 0 M Libre den 8 9 A Dairy (3) 8 8003 READ CARDENERS (4) N Libre den 4 8 9 A Dairy (3) 8 8 0-4003 PRIX DE CLEROMONT (10) (CD) 6 Lords 4 8 8.0 Dairy (7) 8 3 1-430 RIPD (12) (D) M Ribrer ton-Godey 9 8 5 , D Holland 2 5 0 M RIPD (12) (D) M Ribrer 4 8 1 M Ripe 4 8 1 RIPD (12) (D) M Ribrer 4 8 1 M Ripe 4 M Ri

-7 declared BETTING: 2-1 Shanghal LS, 4-1 Prix de Clemanst, 11-2 Evezio Parlo, Heed
Gardenet, 13-2 Zamasti, 7-1 Sig Bang, 14-1 Sidney The Iddney.

8.00 ST PATRICK HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,400 added 3YO 7f

3-161 SHE'S A GENI (10) (CD) No N Macauley 8 8 P McCabe (8) 5 20-830 HEAVENAY ASSTORE (88) P Evens 5 6 Laboratore 5 V 010-55 COLONEL CUSTER (88) C Trombor 8 3 Laboratore 2 -8-270 NULT O'OR (14) (C) N Libratobr 8 0 Laboratore (5) 4 B +8 declared BETTING: 11-4 Deravel's Folly, 4-1 Consecutationing, She's A Gem, 9-2
Not of Ot, 11-2 Colonel Coster, 13-2 Heaverly Abelone.

8.30 STORMONT LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 46yds 1 3040 PETOSKIN (7) (CD) J Pearce 8 85 ______ 2 0500- BLATANT OUTBURST (#134) Mac S Witten 8 82.

9.00 SHAMHOCK SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 52,500 added 6f

_ A McCartty (5) 5 a

GOING: Standard STALLS: 77 - outside; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 67 to 1m 41.

Fibresond surface; left-hend course.

Course is SE of flown on B2028 Rail station actions course AD
MISSION: Club CTS: Bettersale DS (OAP Demond Club 24); Vening

MISSION: Club CTS: Bettersale DS (OAP Demond Club 24); Vening

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MISSION: Club CTS: Bettersale DS (OAP Demond Club 24); Vening

MISSION: Club CTS: Bettersale DS (OAP)

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hetitinshead 65-627 (OA%), M John
LEADING TRAINERS: R Hetitinshead 65-627 (OA%), M John
GLEADING JOCKEVS: Down McKaown 29-281 (UT-9), D Hetiand

GLEADING JOCKEVS: Down McKaown 29-281 (UT-9), D Hetiand

GLEADING COCKEVS: Down McKaown 29-281 (UT-9), D Hetiand

FAVOURTIES: 402-1-242 (22-45), J Quinn 25-414 (5%).

FAVOURTIES: 402-1-242 (22-45), J GMEDIAN ALICTION 7.00 BLARNEY STONE MEDIAN AUCTION
MAIDEN STAKES (E) £3,200 1m 1f 79 yds
MAIDEN STAKES (E) £3,200 1m 1f 79 yd

Wolverhampton

9.30 Eurobox Boy



ROWBOTTOM

ON SPORT'S STRANGE LAWS WITHIN LAWS

didn't learn about at school.

For instance, if you are waiting for someone to phone you back, put a biscuit in your mouth. Hey bingo - the ringing

And while science may now have given us a reason why bread always fall butter-side down, it still has nothing to say on the Dishwash Phenomeoon, whereby every time you tip away the dirty water an unwashed teaspoon appears in the sink.

The advect of the automatic dishwasher has diminished the effect of this attritional occurrence oo many lives.

But the new technology is not without its own spooky peculiarity - every clean load you unpack will contain at least one item which has to be washed

with egg on it, a bowl with ce- commentator booming in my real on it, or a pan with pasta in it. The devil is in the detail.

Similar mysterious forces are at work in the world of sport. understood and accepted, and here I will speak briefly for those who write about sport.

The Law of Press Seats, for example, ensures that at most football grounds in this country, oo more than two-thirds of those correspondents attending will have somewhere to sit. And the allocation of space for those fortunate enough to park their behinds follows suit, in that it is two-thirds of what is required.

At times, passing a scalding teapot down the line at The Dell or attempting to type at White

ear, I confess that I wonder about the laws.

Unhelpful thoughts, conspiracy theories, begin to cloud Some of them simply have to be my outlook. Perhaps somebody meant it to be like this? Perhaps someone has put some thought

> Invariably, however, I manage to calm my fears by reflecting that this is English football. where the cock-up theory is always the right one. Other unwritteo sporting

laws offer more pro-active - if I may use that rather fashionable term-possibilities. How, for instance, may one alter the course of a dull and perhaps goalless football match? In my experience, this can often be achieved Hart Lane with both elbows by working out the goal differ-

those teams immediately above of play. and below them.

Once you have become engrossed in this activity, the game will flare into life and your attention will be diverted by a roar from the crowd and the sight of a ball coming to rest inside one

At this point you will run through the journalist'a fivepoint set response: Who? What? Where? Why? When? Some of these questions will then be answered by your colleagues.

stricted to football. It is possible to bring about a decisive moment in any sport - tennis, athletics, cricket - merely by the act of inattention. Try it.

Not that this principle is re-

Other obvious manifesta-

Over the years, I have gained much satisfaction from observing the Rule of the Game Tryer, something most obvious in - but by no means restricted to - the footballing arena.

Under this rule, a player can fail in every aspect of the game, but if he is seen to be giving his all - 100 per cent, good lad, team man, bulldog spirit he earns the approval, even love, of the crowd.

Thus, presented with a chance of scoring, the Game Tryer will miss - and then clutch his head. That is important, because it shows he cares.

Later in the game, he will fail to anticipate a pass and then make a death-or-giory attempt

again, whether that be a fork pinned to my sides and a radio ence of the sides involved and parent when one studies the field out of play for the opponents' with each on it a bound with an analysis of the sides involved and parent when one studies the field out of play for the opponents' throw-in. He will fail, but his efforts will be warmly applauded.

And so it goes on Meanwhile the talented midfielder who disdains to sweat, or to be seen to sweat, is reviled, despite his consummate contributions. Eveo his home supporters will be inclined to turn on him the moment his passes or shots fail

to zing to the appropriate spots. Another law. How often have you seen it happen that a is evened up in the course of a gue it.

In tennis, a player falsely credited with an ace will, sooner or later, serve up a double-

In football, the award of a dubious penalty will often be foltions of unwritten laws are ap- to prevent the ball from going lowed by the kick being missed, law.

ter Alec Stewart dismissed Ship. narine Chanderpaul in the West Indies' first innings off a "catch" that bounced. With England in position to level the Test senes the heavens opened... Now some people may dis.

or the keeper making a save

And look what happened af-

miss the whole idea of laws with. io laws as being mere superstition. I submit that such scepticism is wide of the mark Some mysterious things happen wrong which is allowed to stand to hold good, however, you ar-

West Ham, for instance, always do well in the FA Cup when the play Arsenal. 1975 - beat Arsenal in the quarter-final, won the Cup. 1980-beat Arsenal in the final 1998...

OK. Scruh that immutable

When the players began to call shots

John Roberts, in Key Biscayne for one of the richest tennis tournaments of the year, looks back on the dawn of professionalism and the 30th anniversary of prize money

WISE men traditionally arrive in When it came to the vote, howhad fallen asleep and the third was arranging the evening's din-eight.

ner entertamment. anniversary of prize-money on ist, the Yugoslav Niki Pilic, were the table, rather than under it, also recruited along with the England aristocrat Jimmy Van eradicating the "living lie" of the South African Cliff Drysdale Alen, had the players fighting amateur game, the "Absent and three established profes- over two sets of ping-pong scor-Three are remembered along sionals. Pierre Barthes, of ing (the first to 31 points) and, with the "Handsome Eight", France, and the Americans if the sets were split, deciding the with whom your correspondent had the pleasure of taking breakfast yesterday at the Lipton Championships here.

"Handsome" might have suited the promoters' billboards but pellation given to the group when they played back in the late 1960s. Opponents of open tennis would refer to them, in polite circles, as the "terrible professionals".

"Big Bill" Edwards, the president of the Australian Lawn Tennis Association, considered that open tennis would be "suicidal". So, in January 1968, as preparations for the Australian championships were being completed for the amateurs in Melbourne, John Newcombe, the reigning Wimhledon champion, alternatively made his professional debut in the Sydney suburb of

With Newcombe was Tony threes, but don't count on it. Roche, his doubles partner in the There was the case of the three triumphant Australian Davis International Tennis Federation Cup team. The pair had joined delegates in Paris in 1960 who ex- the "Handsome Eight", managed pressed support for Wimble- by an American promoter, Dave don's proposal of open tennis and Dixon, and appeared in coloured only had to raise their hands to outfits for matches in which they advance its birth by eight years. played against the clock and were able to bet on points. ever, one was in the toilet, one Roche joked that in handsomeness be ranked 15th among the

 Britain's Roger Taylor, and As the sport marks the 30th another Wimbledon semi-final-Butch Buchholz (the founder of the Lipton Championships in 1985 with his brother, Cliff) and Dennis Ralston.

The preliminary event in Sydney was followed by a trip down was by no means the only ap- to the stockyards of Kansas City in the snow of early February. The tournament was covered by two British journalists, Richard Evans and David Gray. Evans, in his excellent book, Open Tennis, writes that, "David and I were left to work out how best to explain to our readers back in England why their beautiful game was being played on a synthetic court laid on ice in an arena so near the slaughterhouses that the smell of cattle troubled the oos-

"The manner in which the game was being played was even more troubling for the purists. An abomination of a scoring system, devised by that restless New



John Newcombe, Niki Pilic, Butch Buchholz and Cliff Drysdale

match with a nine-point tie-

Although Dave Dixon left the tennis scene almost as quickly as he had arrived, his professional circuit, World Championship Tennis, was developed by Lamar Hunt, a Texas oil millionaire, and became a feature of the sport for the next 20 years. Primitive though some of its early settings were, the quality of the players was first class.

During the death throes of the amateur game at the 1968 Australian championships, a photograph in the Melbourne Herald showed Bill Bowrey, who was to win the men's singles ritle, and his fiancée, Lesley Turner, a semi-finalist in the women's singles, watching a match in the Kooyong stadium. Not another spectator was to be seen. The total attendance for the fortnight was only 7,000.

By swelling the professional ranks, which already numbered Rod Laver, Ken Rosewall, Roy Emerson and Fred Stolle, the "Handsome Eight" strengthened the All England Club's resolve to open its courts to professionals and amateurs alike in 1968, whether the three other Grand Slam championships

followed suit or not. In March 1968, the International Tennis Federation capitulated. A month later Mark Cox. a Cambridge Blue, caused a sensation by defeating Pancho Gonzales in the second round of the first open tournament, the British Hard Court Championships, in Bournemouth. Cox went oo to beat Emerson in the third round before losing to Jean King received £750 for

"These fellows are under a lot of pressure this week," Cox said at the time. "It's as if they've got weights round their legs. They are frightened to lose and are therefore not doing themselves jus-

Did the sport do itself justice?

greatest advantage, quite clearly, is that open tennis has spread the game internationally in the most complete sense. It is also far more competitive. Open tennis legitimised the game, cleaned it up, if you like. Expenses that were being paid were put into prizemoney." On that historic occasion in Bournemouth, when a total of £5,490 was on offer, Cox

elected to play for expenses

The tournament was won by Rosewall, who went on to triumph at the French Open, the first professional Grand Slam championships. Laver cashed in at Wimbledon (£2,000 went a lot farther in 1968) and Billie vinning the women's singles title. In July last year, Pete Sampras was paid £415,000 and the 16-year-old Martina Hingis £373.500.

Those who broke bread together in Florida yesterday in the hospitality village at one of the

lems along the way.

a controversy that led to a Wimbledon boycott by the men's As- to the public, the championships in the 12th game. sociation of Tennis Professionals in 1973. That was in response to the International Tennis Federation's rejection of Pilic's appeal against a nine-mooths' suspension imposed on him by Yugoslavia for failing to play in their Davis Cup match against New Zealand in Zagreb.

"That was only one of the reasons," Pilic recounted. "There was a struggle between the ATP and the ITF. At that particular time, the ATP were getting a really bad deal. They were not in any way able to have a say in deciding their future."

Even though an emergency committee reduced Pilic's suspension to one month, the ATP carried out its threat of a boycott when Wimbledon refused to allow Pilic to compete. With nearly 80 players absent (Roger Taylor Newport, Rhode Island, on Satsport's choice venues marvelled and Ilie Nastase, who were among urday 11 July.

In retrospect, Cox said, "The at the growth of the game while those who played, were later ranked 147th, settled down in not forgetting the political prob- fined £2,000 by the ATP) the the second set and fought off a men's singles title was woo by the match point at 4-5 to hold at Pilic was the central figure in Czech Jan Kodes. Although few 5-5 before spraying a forehand names in the draw were familiar

still attracted massive support. "I

said, "but I think I played a part in getting a much better life for tennis players." Nobody achieved more for the players than Herman David, a determined advocate of open tennis during his 15 years as chairman of the All England Club, from 1959 to 1974, the year

A former Davis Cup player alongside Fred Perry, David presented a professional exhibition event on Wimhledon's lawns in 1967 and declared that the championships would be open to pro-

fessionals the following year. David, the "Steadfast One", has been posthumously elected for enshrinement at the Io-

Capriati suffers another collapse

JENNIFER CAPRIATI, SUI looking for the performances that made her a teenage sensation five years ago before personal problems forced her from the tour, showed yesterday she still has a long way to

go to recapture top form. Capriati fell 6-0. 7-5 to Poland's top player, Magdalena Grzybowska, in the first round of the Lipton Champion ships in Key Biscayne.

Capriati, ranked sixth in 1992-93, has lost seven straight matches and has been beaten n six consecutive first rounds. dating to her last victory in August 1997 at the Canadian

"I felt nervous, anxious going out there," said Capriati, who was returning after taking five months to recuperate from a shoulder injury.

Indeed, Capriati, who was arrested on drug and shoplifting charges several years ago, looked nervous as she sprayed her shots wildly over the court in the first set that she lost on

two double faults. But the 21-year-old, now long on the second match point

Serena Williams, one of the was sorry for Wimbledon," Pilic newer teenage female players, gained an easy 6-4, 6-0 win over Denise Chladkova of the Czech Republic.

In the men's action, Australia's Mark Woodforde beat Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States 6-1, 6-2. Gambill beat Andre Agassi in Indiana;

Wells last week. Before play began on Thursday, the five-times winner Steffi Graf and the reigning French Open Champion Iva Majoli withdrew from the tournament. A hamstring injury suffered last week forced Graf to withdraw, while Majoli pulled out

because she has the flu. The Lipton Championships were to be Graf's third tournament of the year, following ber eight-month lay-off after knee surgery last June.

Before you buy the wrong car On sale now £3.00

TODAY Football 3.0 unless stated GM VALDGHALL COS Tattord v Hednesstord Wolding v Kidderminister FA CARLSBERG VASE SEMI-FINALS SECOND LEG Kidagorow (0) v Tiveston (2) Tow Law (4) v Tisunition (4) Trush (4) letor, Southalf v Episom & Ewis. Until Power LEAGUE Premise Phylision: Barnber Bridge v Boston Utt; Blyth Spartans v Radetifis Borough; Colwyn Bay v Altreion; Emiley v Barnough; Colwyn Bay v Altreion; Emiley v Barnough; Colwyn Bay v Altreion; Charley; Leigh PMF v Altrinchem, Mame v Getelley; Leigh PMF v Altrinchem, Mamer v Getelley; Plancom v Spartnyrhoor; Witetord v Chorley; Plancom v Spartnyrhoor; Witetord v Chorley; Plancom v Spartnyrhoor; Statistand v Bayber; Harnogate Town v Doyleden; Lincoln Utd v Congleton; Matlock v Traftord, Natherfield v Farsley Cabit; Witton Abion v Whiteley Bay; Workington v Stocksbridge.

Weekend fixture guide DR MARTTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Agindroid v Gloucester: Beth City v Terrivorith: Cembridge City v St. Leonards Stamondh; Crawloy v Greatery November Protest Gristen Rovers; Farneston v Stamon Abbort; Roberts Hovers; Farneston v Stamon Abbort; Roberts Hovers; Farneston v Stamon Abbort; Roberts v Marchy; Tydti: Salebury v Affensions; Wordshir v Africk Lynt, Middlend Divisions: Baladray v Stamon v Hockets and Solehall Borough: Branday v Bodworth; Evestent v Strait Growthern; Begstend Dynamo v Roddinds; Stafford Rengars v Robert Carbon v Hockets; Stafford Rengars v Robert Carbon v Hockets; Stafford Rengars v Robert Carbon v Hockets v Baladroid; Stafford Rengars v Robert Carbon v Hockets v Baladroid; Stafford Rengars v Robert Carbon v Horsen; First v Roberts of Gestel; Hosen v Velture; First v Roberts (Gestel); Hosen v Velture; First Velture v Roberts (Gestel); Hosen v Velture; First Velture v Roberts (Gestel); Hosen v Velture; First Velture v Roberts (Gestel); Hosen v Velture; First Division Billingham Rown, Essington v RTM Newcoastic Quitorough v Stocker; Morton v Crook; Fernith v Seeham Red Sur; South Stelds v Jamon v. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Divis

Lesgue Cup semi-finals tinst legt Greenwich Borough v Cray Wandarrs; Herne Bay v Shappey.

UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Burgues Hill v Anindat, Eastbourne Town v Hassocks; Historiam v Litterampton; Horshern Valca v Sandeen: Mile Oes. v Chichester, Pagisarr v Langnay Sports, Peachtwen & Historiae v Reddie, Portfield v Sandhern; Malanhawk v Salsay; Mick v Ringmax
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Bound v Tox Sports; Desborough v St Nacht; Eynesbury v Wellingborough; Hobsach v Woothon; Kempaten v Northempton Sperioer; Long Buckby v Stemfort, Mirries Bacistone v Cogarinos; Potops v Boeton Town; Stewerts & Loyde Corby v Spelling, Schewins & Loyde Corby v Spelling, Schewins & Holder v Medical Holder v Milestone v Boeton Town; Stewerts & Loyde Corby v Spelling, Schewins & Holder v Milestone v Boeton Town; Stewerts & Hoyde Corby v Spelling v British Rayer-Barn v Backwelt Chipperham v Backwelt Rayer-Barn v Backwelt Chipperham v Backwelt College Odd Does v Hedgester; Alexander v Bestander; Fording v Coll Does v Hedgester; Peullon v Britane; Fording v Coll Does v Hothard.

Chard.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-mier Divisior: Arnold v Shaffield; Brigg v Dan-eby; Curzon Ashton v Armfhorpe Wedine; Ecclastiff o Osset Atlon; Glesshoughon Wel-fers v Thackley; Hellom v Liversadge; Hetfield Itah v Solby; Ristby v Pidering; North Fentby v Ponteiract; Cesett Krein v Hudgrig.

den Son Wessex League Lymington v
Jewson Wessex League Lymington v
Andows Aerostructures v Totton: BAT Sports
v Tratichen; Cowes Sports v Romsey; East
Cowes Ves Boumenouth RC Eastleight Newbury; Gosport Borough v Brockenhurst;
Portenouth RN v Whitchurch; Windome v
Christchurch;

Cirillathurch.
JEWSON EASTERIN LEAGUE Prensier Divisione Bury Town v Diss, Febenham v By City.
Grant Yarmouth v Felicatowe; Helsteed v Weitton; Haton v Harwich & Parkisstor, Newmarket
v Whodaridge; Soham v Lowestah; Stowmarhet v Sudoury hours Eudbury Wandersen v Gorleston; Wrodnen v Warboya.
NTEFRENC EUPHESS HEDI AND ALLIANCE:
Chasefown v Pershore; Halsowen Harriers v
West Madends Potios; Oldbury v Barwelt; Heself Wile v Whonesfeld; Rudnel Dlympic v Bridgnorth; Stright v Sandwell Borough; Steppenill v
Rocester; Stratford v Bloswich.
PRESS & JOURNAL HERI AND LEAGUE: Do-

PROCESSET, Standard v Blorwich.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE Develorance v Pristricost, Freschuph v Hunty.
SMIRNOFF BRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Ards v Crusaders, Bellymena v Geneton, Chlorwile v Colesine; Gerdom v Omegir, Portadown v Unight, Freschuph v Bellydere v Geneton, Chromite v Colesine; Gerdom v Unight, Processed v Bellydere Commente.
Carrick Rangem v Newry, Dietilery v Dunger-non Swifts, Limendy v Bellydere Commente.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Committe Carry Normack (2d); Commente v Aberrystoryth (230); Cembra v Carriers Berg 230; Heart Carlo-Res (200); Westgood v TNS Liancentfreid (230). Westgood v TNS Liancentfreid (230).
PONTRIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Man-

PONTRIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Man-chester Und v Derby (2.0). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First DI-vision: Portsmouth v Assenal (2.0).

Rugby Union

Jewson NAI KNAL LEAGUE ONE- Herro-ges v Leach London Weish v Wherledele; Mc-isy v Rosslyn Park; Nottinghem v Ofley; Riading v Newbury; Worsester v Liverpool St Helens. Two North: Aspaths v Hindeley; Sim-leghem-Schillar v Kendels; Lichible v Werweg-ton Park; Nurseaton v Stourbridge; Sandal v Sedgiey Perk; Sherified v Present Greantop-pers; Walsal v Merchester. Two South: Buri-ng v Chellenhem; Cerberley v Hessert; Esher v Weston-super-Maris; Metropolitan Police v North Milleton; Burnot div Beforester; Sedent Worth Milleton; Burnot div Beforester; Sedent TENNENTS VELVET BOWL Second rou Clydebank v Certin Queens Park, Highla

CLUB MATCHES: Ayr v Kilmernock; Boroughmur v Weterloo; Glesgow Southern v Pre-Hockey

NORTH First Division: Chester v Herrogate; Formby v Neston; Shafflad Bartean v Ben Fry-ding; Swattwell v Southport; Tenperley v Ne-ston; Wigen v Durtern Univ.

Basketball

Ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE Play-offs send-finals second lag: Marchester Storm v Ayr Scottish Esgles (630): Shaffield Steelers v Cardiff Devils (630). Other sports BCIGNO: Professional prom mai Green, London).

TOMORROW Footbali

Rugby League
PRST DIVISION: Desetury v Leich (30; Hut
Ingston Rovers v Rochdele (30; Hurslet v
Peetiverstone (330; Waleafield v Swinton (330;
Williamson v Keigney (330),
PRIENDLY MATCHES: Bradford v St Helone
(30; Heliax v Leeds (30); Warrington v Huddersfield (30).

Rugby Union

NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP and v England (3.0) maybeld, Edinburgh

(1130) est Litesthall.

NATIONAL LEAGUE Preceier: Centerbury v
Doncester (III); East Ginsteed v Barlord Tigers
230; Galicited v Carnock (20]; Hourstow v Bescan (20); Old Loughtsman v Southpete (20);
Seeding v Rothington (20). First Division (20);
Harryssiad & Westmaster, Firebranch v S. Aubans; Gloucaster City v Stourport; Harleston
Megplas v Havars; Oxford Liviv v Lewes;
Startiston v Control Havines; Surbison v Loughborough Students; Warrington v Hull.

Basketball ice hockey

Speedway SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Eastbourne v Kingle Lynn (230).

CHALLENGE: Newport v isle of Wight (230). SPRING CUP Second leg: Gasgow v Edinburgh (630). Other sports

QUOTES OF THE

 I don't care who he plays for.
 But if he wants to be in the World Cup he has to start playing again. Glenn Hoddle, England football coach, on Paul Gascoigne. Behind the scenes at Meine Road there are some very instrucere people who have tried to blacken my name during my tenancy as chairman. I could have got rid of some of those people, but when they had one they would when they had gone they would have been an even bigger men-ace. Francis Lee, on realigning as Manchester City FC chairman. Mainchester Liny PC craimmen.

If Lee thinks he's had it bad over the pest few weeks, it's just chicken feed to what Peter Swales had to endure. Lee was like a Second World War soldier, while Swales was a First World Wer Intentrymen.

Part of the sale

or coor.

The been in tootbell for 38 years and I've never been treated like anything like that in my life before. The stewards took me upstells and downstains to the right and to the left and the coorse were with and downstairs to the right and to the left, and the police were with them as well, I will be protesting about the way I was treated. A man-ager should not be taken away fixe that. Luis Aragones, the coach of Real Betis, who was expelled from the bench during Thursday's European Cup-Winners' Cup tie and Chelsee.

in comparison - that's the difference between what they had to endure. Chris Muir, a former City

Have you got any hendculfs?
 Douglas Hall, Newcastle United vice-chairmen, allegedly in a Spanish brothel, according to the News of the Medial.

ight on

Suffer

anoth

collap =

IMPROVE YOURSELF

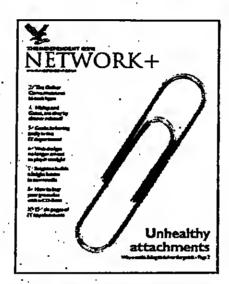
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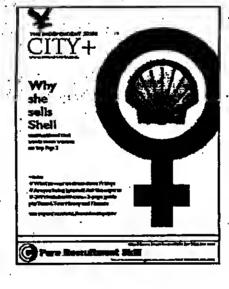
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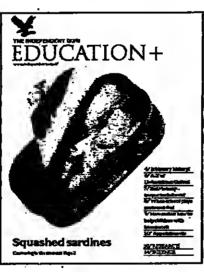
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INDEPENDENT

One black cloud in the doldrums can disrupt all our plans



GRANT DALTON ger a little more pressure.

Merit Cup's skipper expects a frustrating time ahead on the Whitbread Round the World race

shore, but being steadily recled transom.

be the winning edge of this leg. few hundred metres away.

to make a break during this sixth sometimes -but it is very patchy are straining as they concentrate significant action has been Silk tionless with the only sound the that's going.

Cut doing a good job close in-slop of the water against the The press

in as the yachts further offshore Some of the boys oo Merit Mike Sanderson, who are reThe position schedules, Even though we knew that
ger a little more pressure.

Cup have been through the sponsible for keeping the yacht which we get every six hours, init didn't mean much, we glowed We expect the fleet will split doldrums several times. Expethe aim and a quick exit could favouring another yacht only a

purely a matter of chance what shape you're in when you emerge from the other side.

This is a contingly introduced at the incomplete of a little circumstances on and seventh-placed yachts. So far on this leg the heat has routile will the circumstances on and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight, 4.7 miles separated the second and seventh-placed yachts. At midnight is the circumstance of the notion of the positions and the placed yachts. At midnight is the circumstance of the notion of the positions and the placed yachts. At midnight is the circumstance of the notion of the positions and the placed yachts are placed yachts. At midnight is the position of th

to make a break during this sixth sometimes - but it is very patchy are straining as they concentrate. In these sort of conditions, For example, the 18.00 (helped by a little luck) second leg of the Whitbread Round the and shifts direction constantly. On keeping the boat moving tryit's not unknown to have 10 sail. GMT position on Thursday place to sixth; Innovation

tains Kevin Shoebridge and doldrums it is very hard work. to second in six hours.

In the navigation station, the water, is greeted with in the fleet made distance on us. wind should be behind us for the Paykel New Zealand. Mike Quilter, famous for his cheers. A bad sched casts a pall At 18.00, when we were sec- run to Fort Lauderdale. seemingly laid-back outlook at of gloom over the hoat, even ond, 3.9 miles separated the sec- So far on this leg the heat has trouble with the desalination

World race. However, the most li's not unusual to be sitting moing to catch any hit of breeze changes in an hour as the wind had Merit Cup second, 17.2 Kvaerner from third to second; cape the heat. Oo deck there's shifts direction and the pressure miles behind Silk Cut. We were EF Language from fourth to no shade; below decks it's even The pressure on watch caprises and falls. In the heat of the looking good. From sixth place fifth; Chessie Racing from fifth hotter and it's beginning to

The position schedules, Even though we knew that fourth.

For example, the 18.00 (helped by a little luck) second peratures must be at least 50C.

WE HAVE been expecting There is breeze in the dolsomeone (hopefully Merit Cup)

There is breeze in the dolwhen the frustration levels get plan virtually worthless in just and distances between the changed remarkably. Merit Cup heating the deck to sole-burning
to reply a broad during this girth comparison.

There is breeze in the dolwhen the frustration levels get plan virtually worthless in just and distances between the changed remarkably. Merit Cup heating the deck to sole-burning
yachts were insignificant.

There is breeze in the dolwhen the frustration levels get plan virtually worthless in just and distances between the changed remarkably. Merit Cup
point and below docks the tempoint and b

There's nowhere to go to esto third; Toshiba from sixth to reck of damp sails and clothes.

It was oot this hot when we Once we're out of the dol- came south through the tropics moving at maximum possible pose a sort of terror campaign for a moment; then one of drums it's a 2,000-mile reach oo on leg one and I don't rememas the yachts line themselves up riedce doesn't make it any easspeed, is relentless. The helmsoo board. A good sched, where those big, black clouds smothstarboard tack to Barbuda, an ber it being this hot last time on for the run through the doling ier to cope with a capricious of the run through through through through the run through th

This is not a time to have

Halifax farewell to Thrum Hall

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

ANOTHER famous old ground this case, snows, hails and gales - of history tomorrow when

1886, the notoriously bleak sta- the day of the match. dium reached by the ominous route up Gibbet Street, gets the some of Halifax's greatest play- appeal against a four-match chop after a celebratory match against Leeds. The proceeds team will be close to full will go straight into the kitty that strength. The half-backs Chris will enable Halifax to buy into The Sbay, the home of their both been passed fit after takfootball neighbours Halifax ing blows to the bead in the con-Town, which is currently being redeveloped,

anniquated facilities at Thrum Hall, but, with its slope and stands crowded tight to the Cup five weeks ago, will be next week. touchline, it has always been a grateful for something approxdramatic place to watch a game.

will have many cherished memories of what remains one of the most atmospheric of rugby Burnett, the captain of Halifax during one of their most successful eras and now the chairman of the appeal committee with Hull KR and Wakefield

£140,000 towards the cost of the first stage of The Shay rede-

So far, they bave managed passes into the mists - and, in around £50,000, so the hope is that Thrum Hall will be full to its present, restricted capacity Thrum Hall stages its last game. of 7,500. The match is all-tick-The home of Halifax since et, but they will be oo sale oo

Chester and Gavin Clinch have troversial Challenge Cup defeat Few will shed tears for the Kelvin Skerrett is regarded as

Leeds, knocked out of the imating to a serious match to "A lot of people in the area, belp them prepare for the start plus supporters of other clubs, of Super League in two weeks. Their side, also virtually at full strength, includes their new signing from Australia, Brad league grounds," said John Godden, who will make his debut in the centres.

Elsewhere, the First Division table is starting to take shape,

that bas the task of raising Trinity defending the only 100 per cent records tomorrow before facing each other next

Rovers are at home to struggling Rochdale Hornets, who gave their coach, Shane Tupaea, the dreaded vote of confidence this week, while Trinity bost inconsistent Swinton.

The Sheffield Eagles' centre, Apart from a parade of Keith Senior, has failed in his ban for punching Castleford's Barrie-Jon Mather in their Cuptie last Saturday. His suspension. was left unchanged at a second hearing yesterday, which means that be will miss his side's semifinal against Salford and the first at the London Broncos and only three Super League matches.

Nigel Wright, Wigan's injuryplagued stand-off, is to have another operation oo his ankle

Malcolm Reilly, the former Great Britain coach who last year with the Newcastle Knights became the first foreigner to win an Australian Grand final, has returned to this country following the death of his father. Rugby league will plant another foothold in Scotland with the formation of Glasgow .North. They join Whitecraigs, based in the south of the city.



in a row, trailed Cindy Figg-Currier af-six-under 67. ter the first round of the Standard Register Ping tournament in Phoenic, male has won a tournament (ive ing PCA Four legends Gene Saraina leader, Paul Cayard, although Arizona Davies shot a three under par years in a row And (Davies tales the and Walter Hagen in the exclusive title, she will receive around £80,000 Photograph: Scott Troyanos/AP running is not EF Language's

Britain's Laura Davies, trying to become to catch Figg-Currier, who was just two for the winner's cheque and a £187,500 the first golfer to win an event five times strokes off the course record with her bonus.

Davies is the only LPGA player to cap-

Silk Cut holds off pack of pursuers

Sailing

By Stuart Alexander

IN temperatures approaching 100F down below and in burning sun and soaking humidity up oo deck, Britain's Silk Cut was watching her rivals close the gap yesterday on the sixth leg of the Whitbread race. Lawrie Smith still had a 2.7-mile advantage with the chasing group of four shuffling and reshuffling their places behind him.

Without full satellite communications, Silk Cut's crew were not always sure where they stood or what the others were doing, but it was for everyone a routine of constant sail changing to match the up and down puffs of wind and squalls.

With the effect of the doldrums yet to be felt strongly, the fleet continued to make faster than predicted progress as it lined itself up for what could virtually be a restart io the tradewinds, which will take them up through the Caribbean.

Most relaxed about the lof-

forte." On the threatening Chessic Racing, the watch captain, Fuzz Spanhake, report that being "surrounded by thun-" derstorms, lightning, and heavy rain" had provided one of the race's most interesting nights. TRICE S MIOST MICE'SSUDS nights. 7
WHITEREAD FIOUND THE WORLD RACE 5
Shift leg (4,750miles, São Sebestião,5
Bra, to Fort Leuderdale, Fia): Position at 7
1200GMR 1 5 Sik Cut (68) 30241 miles to 80-7
let; 2 Teshiba (US) 27 mies bohind leader; 3
Chesele Racing (US) +62; 4 ET Language (Sws) +64, 5 innovation Kiesmar (Nor) +73; 6 Marti Cup (Monaco) +134, 7 BrunsSuregy (Noth) +153; 8 EF Education (Swe) +213; 9 Swedish Match (Swe) +337.

rite positive despite record against Hawks

Ice hockey

THE Fife Flyers forward John Haig has warned their opposition in the British National League play-off semi-finals that they will not be written off. The Kirkcaldy team meet the hosts Kingston Hawks in the second semi-final at Hull Arena today, face-off 4.30pm, with Guildford Flames facing Telford Tigers at noon. The winners advance to tomorrow's final at 4pm.

Many see the Scots as the underdogs as they have lost six of the eight meetings with the Hawks this season - including all four at the Arena. Fife, however, with 16 wins from their last 17 games, are the form team and Haig, who had an unsuccessful second spell at Hull, said: "We're not scared of anyone. We have beaten everybody this season and don't fear Kingston, Guildford or Telford. At this stage it is down to how you play on the day. Nerves and many other factors come into it. In fact, we play better when people write us off."

Kingston's general manager Keith Milhench, who received a boost when his defenceman Lee Brathwaite declared himself fit, is remaining level-headed, acknowledging Fife will be tougher than some imagine. He said: "We will not be taking Fife lightly. We won't be over-confident. I just hope we don't freeze on the hig occasion because that has happened before."

Guildford Flames, the British National League and Southern Conference champions, meanwhile, are praying their forward Barclay Pearce will be fit to face Telford after hurting his knee. A decision will be made at the last moment.

John Lawless, the Telford manager, said discipline would be vital. The former Cardiff and Manchester coach said: "Guildford are a quality side and we will need to stay out of the box. We need everyone to be on the same page. One thing's for sure, it's going to he an exciting weekend."

Burks saved for Leopards' finale

Basketball

By Richard Taylor

GREATER London Leopards' guard Eric Burks misses tomorrow's Dairylea Dunkers North v South All-Star game at Sheffield Arena as his coach, Billy Mims, protects one of his greatest assets for the final two weeks of the Budweiser League Burks injured a knee during

has been replaced by Thames Valley Tigers' Jason Siemon in the South team, coached by and defending champions, play Watford on Wednesday, then

Leopards' 85-70 defeat at Loo-

don Towers last weekend and

face three testing final games against Derby Storm, Tigers and away to Sheffield Sharks. Burks played for 37 minutes in Thursday's 81-72 win over Crystal Palace, but will be at tomorrow's game only to sign aotographs. Mims said: "Although

Eric is disappointed be knows

ty of time to rest before we play Watford." Birmingham Bullets must win all six of their remaining games, beginning with tomorrow's All-Star curtain-raiser

the importance of the league

games in our hid to keep the ti-

tle. The break will give him plen-

against Sheffield, to keep the pressure on Leopards. Defeat last weekend cost Bullets and Sharks the chance to close the gap. Bullets coach Mike Finger said: "I'm sure Sharks aren't very happy right oow and neither are we. We're

to prove a point." Leopards, league leaders NBA's career leading scorer, was arrested by US Customs officials on Sunday for possession of six grams of marijuana at Pearson International Airport. The Toronto Star said Abdul-Jabbar, 50, the former

to Los Angeles. He was re-

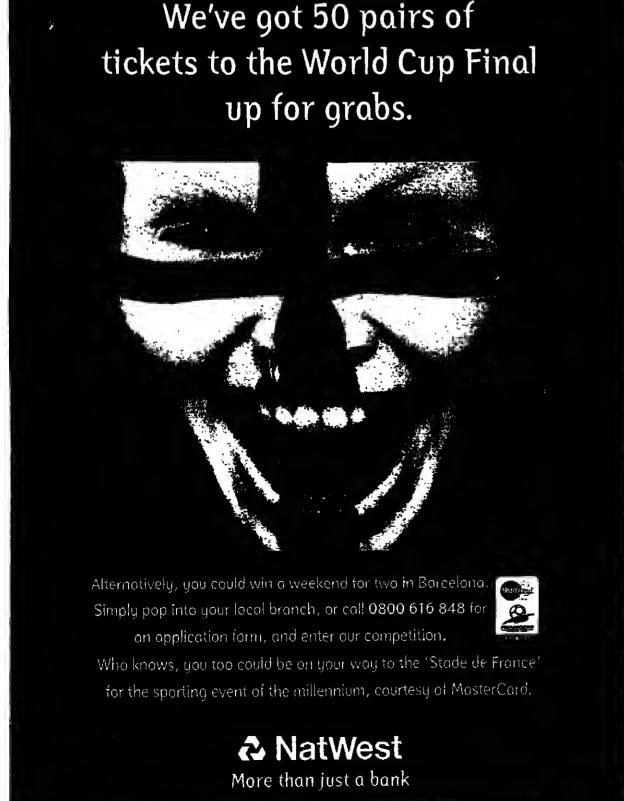
leased without conditions.

two angry teams both wanting Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the

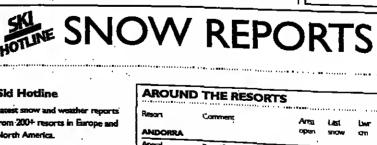
Los Angeles Lakers ceotre was fined \$500 (£330) before being allowed to board a flight

TODAY'S NUMBER

The percentage of respondants to an international internet poll who want the 2006 World Cup to be held in England. Only 12 per cent of the 15,364 fans polled from more than 100 countries were from the United Kingdom. Just over one in five people who voted favoured South Africa, while only 12 per cent backed the bid by Germany, who have been considered to be England's greatest rivals to host the tournament. Sixteen per cent supported other possible venues around the



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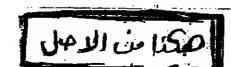
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A PER LA SE

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Free Cheltenham Three and tell bookies to take running jump



CHRIS MAUME

SPORT ON TV

HORSES are intelligent, I've taking their jockeys hostage and always believed that, despite leaving a gang of squealing pundion to flow. Stuck in the office to behold, such as the Queen witting but hrutal self-carication to flow. Stuck in the office to behold, such as the Queen witting but hrutal self-carication to flow. Stuck in the office to behold, such as the Queen witting but hrutal self-carication to flow. Stuck in the office to behold, such as the Queen witting but hrutal self-carication to flow. Stuck in the office to behold, such as the Queen witting but hrutal self-carication to behold. their propensity for allowing fat ters in their wake. aristocrats to jump on their Business and Indian Tracker - vegetarian bleeding hearts who seventh fence coming up, had a quick word between them- same rights as the homo sapi-

took off for the Cotswolds. They must have been read- finish before I start. ing about the Tamworth Two. and reasoned, "Well, pigs might fly and horses might as well." No doubt dedicating clear: cancel the afternoons, their freedom dash to Butch settle down with a notepad and and Sundance, they were off,

Shouldn't joke, really, as it backs and pursue unsuspecting was an injury to Cyborgo that furry things. The proof came on caused the cock-up. Still, not (C4), when the Cheltenham three days. Par for the race-Three - Cyborgo, See More course, really. As one of those saw the somewhat dannting believe that non-human animals should have roughly the selves, thought "Sod that for a ens variety, anything I have to game of unseated riders" and say on the subject would be crushingly predictable, so I'll

> During the Cheltenham Festival, any self-respecting ample supplies of a favoured in-bookmakers in business.

this week, I didn't have that option, and had to view most of the proceedings from the back of a telly-punters' scrum, but Thursday during the Gold Cup many horses died over the still, three days of elite racing amid a Bacchanalian free-forall set in a rural idyll lit like the Côte d'Azur should have pro-

vided plenty of material.

Except for the fact that, as I came to realise over the three a republican?" days. I really don't care about racing. I mean really, not in the slightest. The only thoughts I do have are for the high-calibre horseflesh induced by a mixture of cainling and punishment to operate at maximum capacity for a few minutes in order to keep the

as the nonagenarian icon gave their hands. it a pre-race once-over, almost landing a blow on the royal bonce. You can see the caption: "Get that blandy woman away from me. Doesn't she know I'm

There was plenty of upperclass silliness, especially among the owners, though my favourites were the owners of day, who in all their Brummie arriviste glory came on like Harry Enfield's self-made "considerably-richer-than-yow" pair of horrors. "Up the Brits!"

Still, there were a few sights shricked the woman in an un-Mother arriving in a borrowed ture. It's moments like this Popemobile. There was near-that bring home the notion that ly a national tragedy when one some people have too much horse flicked its head penulantly money and too much time on

There was also the appalling Leslie Graham, who seemed to have wandered in from some dressage event next door and microphone stuck in her hand, asking questions of a Gary Newbonesque gaucheness. I'm told that some trainers forbid winning jockeys from talking to Upgrade, a winner on Thurs- her, and it would be nice to think that perhaps this was a quality control thing - "You're not to open your mouth in her decent bloody questions!" Ap-

ioned ideas that the riders' first words should be to the scrapheap three years ago." trainers and owners themselves, which seems fair enough.

I never like slagging off sportsmen for linguistic infelicities - it's rather like criticising Barry Davies for his pathetic inability to do a decent found herself by the rail with a man-marking job on Ryan Giggs. But there was a delightful if hrief outbreak of the "literally" syndrome after the Guld Cup. from the winning jockey, Andrew Thornton. Questioned by Brough Scott (who, for all his experience as an interviewer, is musing on the beauty of the like Graham without the riding aerial shots and the splendour togs), he proffered the view of the hills. Until the Cheluntil she comes up with some that, "this puts the icing on my tenham Three took off on their season - literally," followed a mad dash for freedom.

parently, though, it's simply because they have old-fash-"Literally -I was nearly on the

Television will never be able to do justice to horse racing until it's done in scratch-andsniff sensurround. Going to the races is about so much more than what happens on the track - the bookies, the nobs, the and the grime of cash. Compared to the grand social panorama it offers, for a nongambler like mc, the issue of which horse comes first is a minor matter, and I found myself

Mansell

back on

for Ford

NIGEL MANSELL ran down the steps on the BBC set of "Noel's House Party" and waved to the audience, but there was no gunge or Mr Blobby in sight, It was for real - the former world champion was

Mansell will drive a Ford Mondeo at three meetings in this season's British Touring Car Championship, which will earn him around £500,000 and doubtless boost the attendances at Donington in June, Brands Hatch in August, and Silverstone in September.

He maintains his role will be to back up Ford's regular drivers, Will Hoy and Craig Baird. but relishes the opportunity to complete a mission he started and was unable to finish five years ago. That venture in touring cars, at Donington, was inlerrupted by a serious accident which lauded him in hospital

Motor racing By Derick Allsop

back in motor racing.

with battered ribs. Mansell was el

in the future.

I will finish.

try or America.

cally effusive about his new

campaign and, although now

aged 44, left open the door to a possible full-time programme

He also took the chance to have a side-swipe at Formula

One in general and Oavid Coulthard in particular for perhaps jeopardising his champi-

onship prospects by allowing through his McLaren-Mercedes team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, at

the Australian Grand Prix. He said: "I'm highly motivated and this will get the competitive juices going. I've got some unfinished husiness to

attend to and hopefully this time

"I'm here to complement

Will and Craig, who are going

for the championship, t'm not.

But I have an open contract with

Ford and I'm ruling nothing out

in terms of a full programme in

the future, either in this coun-

"I never retired, I merely had

a sahbatical. It wasn't right for

me at this stage in do a full sea-

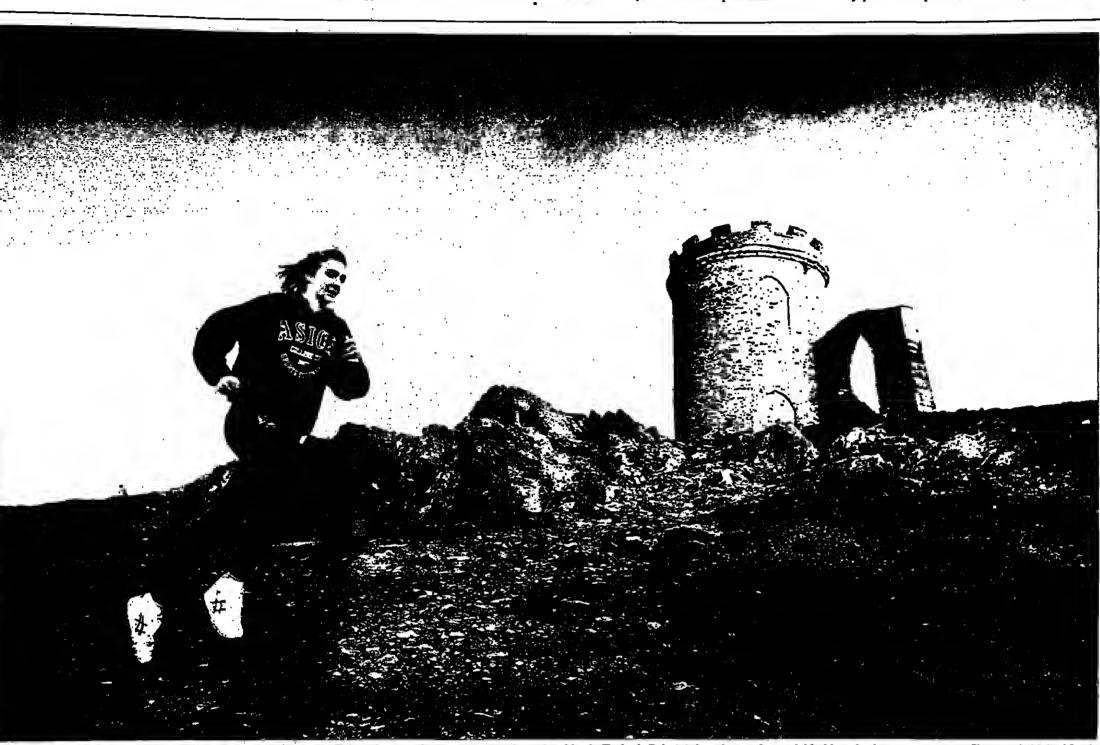
son, but the clincher was the

chance to race at three historic

circuits and hopefully bring the

While he is content to play the

track



Queen of the castle: Paula Radcliffe, pipped for gold by Derartu Tulu at last year's cross country championships in Turin, is Britain's best hope of a medal in Marrakesh.

Radcliffe's chance to atone for missing title

PAULA RADCLIFFE bas been a world champion for six seconds. She hopes to discover in Marrakesh this weekend what it feels like to hold that distinction for a longer period of time.

At last year's world cross country championships in Turin, the 24-year-old thought she had done chough to secure a senior title to add to the junior version she won in the snow of Boston seven years ago.

As she drove towards the finishing line, she allowed herself to believe that she had won until Derartu Tulu, Ethiopia's Olympic 10,000 metres champion of 1992, sprinted home to

mission, is a perfectionist. Her academic career - four A level passes at grade A, and a first class honours degree in Furopean Studies from Loughborough University, hint at the diligence and intelligence she

hrings to her running. It is an attitude she says she has inherited from her mother Pat, a deputy headmistress. "I like to do things properly or not at all," Radcliffe says.

For such a character, the experience in Turin was hugely frustrating, even if it did reflect huge credit npon an athlete who, three years earlier, had been told by a medical special-

Mike Rowbottom on the British athlete who hopes to go one better at this weekend's world cross-country championships

vent her ever running again. But it at least gave her a tangible reward for the talent than she did in Italy last year. which has been developed with such painstaking care by her coaches at Bedford and County Athletics Cluh, Alec and

spectively. This weekend, the Stantons

ist that a foot injury might pre- she was a 12-year-old also-ran day's longer race, where she - will be with her in Morocco may or may not he facing her as she seeks to go one better

That task has been complicated by the new format which has been introduced by the International Amateur Athletic Rosemary Stanton. In her last Association, which has split the two major championships on race into longer and shorter verthe track, the Olympics and the sions, over eight and four kiloworlds, she finished the 5,000m metres, which will be run today a tantalising fifth and fourth re- and tomorrow respectively.

Radcliffe, who recalls how exhausted she was after Turin, who have coached her since is likely to concentrate on to-

nemesis. Tulu is injured, but the Ethiopians have left a place open just in case she re-

Although the Briton feels the IAAF's action has diluted the strength of this event, she still faces the possibility of strong challenges from former champion Gete Wami, of Ethiopia, and Ireland's former world 5,000m champion Sonia O'Sul-

British athletics, which saw

its main administrative body collapse last October, is on something of a roll at the moment following the success at the European indoor championships, where Jonathan Edwards won an expected gold and Ashia Hansen - also in the triple jump - and 3,000m run-ner John Mayock won unex-

Further success from Radcliffe, who has been training at altitude in Albuquerque, would maintain a welcome high profile for the sport.

She is unlikely to be surrounded by other British medallists. The men's team - from which the former European

cross country champion Jon Brown has remnined absent as be concentrates on preparing for this year's London Marathon - is not likely to make any impact upon the African nations who have virtually adopted this event in recent years. Paul Tergat, Kenya's world

10,000m record holder, is expected to lead his team to their 13th consecutive team title as he himself seeks a fourth individnal title.

In the shorter men's event. Daniel Komen, who hroke the 5,000m world record in Brussels last year, is overwhelming

Canterbury, three points be-

supporting role in the Mondeo, he professed his astonishment that Coulthard surrendered victory, after a first-corner pact, to

fans along to watch."

Hakkinen in Melbourne. Mansell said: "If the championship was over I would not have a problem with it, but I was confused because it was the first corner of the first race. You don't give away four points unless you have a crystal ball and know you're going to get them back. I hope David doesn't regret it.

the sport. "I would say David and Mika have an equal chance of winning the championship. The person who is more consistent will win it. McLaren have done an outstanding joh.

What happened is not good for

"The other thing about Formula One now is that there are too many driver aids. Don't get me wrong, Formula One is the pinnacle but there are too many computer-controlled aids. I just think a driver should drive the car and carry it around. The good thing about touring cars is that the driver has a lot of input and the public can relate to the cars."

Leander on pole

Rowing

By Hugh Macheson

THE Tideway Head of the River Race from Chiswick to Putney today is likely to be dominated by Leander Club, the home of most of the leading men's group in the British National team.

Leander I has the World Championship coxless four of James Cracknell, Steve Redgrave. Tim Foster and Matthew Pinsent at its core and will lead off in front of University of London and two predominantly lightweight crews. one from London and the other from Notts County at three Did four.

Oxford Brookes University, now one of the strongest clubs, will start sixth in front of the leading overseas crew, SC Zurich, from Switzerland.

The Tideway Scullers' School has a crew of genuine scullers, including the triple world lightweight champion Peter Haming at stroke, backed up by Guy Pooley, Wade Hall Craggs and Boris Mavra.

Molesey, with a crew of Olympie medallists, including the Searle brothers and Richard Stanhope, have been wallowing in the wake of first the Oxford and then the Cambridge Boat Race crews in practice hut should move up from 20th.

The perfect weather conditions forecast, combined with a good flow of land water, will make for a fast time and Leander will have no inhibitions in proving the value of the first winter when the entire national team has been properly funded for full-time training. The gap between the full-timers and the rest is expected to increase

Fogarty trails in Slight's wake Motor cycling

By Andrew Martin

IN THE early hours of tomorrow morning Carl Fogarty begins his quest for a third World Superbike championship test to the limit the capabilities of Britain's fastest man on two wheels since Barry Sheene ruled the most in the late 1970s. As all things 70s appear to

be the height of fashion, the presence of a Briton leading the field once again would not "Blackburn Bullet" is certainly placed above all his countrymen to achieve the feat.

· Foggy is, famously, not a man to countenance any doubts in his own ability, but even the is too with the arrangement. man who twice rode a scarlet Ducati to world titles may be in- much better than last year. We clined to see red after the post- are all pulling together. I feel chance of the taking the crown."

ifying times in Phillip Island. Australia. Aaron Slight, Fogarty's former Honda team-mate. shattered his own lap record to take the fastest time.

There is no love lost between the New Zealander and Fogaagainst a field that is certain to rty, so the man with the famously intense stare will no doubt blink twice at his own qualification time: he finished the session joint fourth, a little over 0.6sec behind the leader. Fogarty was the runner-up in

the series last year to the American John Kocinski, who has seem too fanciful and the switched to Honda's 500cc grands prix effort. Foggy himself has also moved teams, linking up with the Performance crew managed by the former racer Davide Tardozzi. And happy he come from Slight. He is very

"I have a really good set-up,

ing of yesterday's opening qual- good with them, and they are working with me to get the bike how I want it," he said.

He needs to be. This season

is far from a two-horse race. with the rapid Australian Troy Corser recording blistering times in the pre-season. In Misano, Corser cropped Kocinski's lap record. Then there is the anticipated challenge of America's Scot Russell, Japan's Akira Yanagawa and his Kawasaki team-mate Neil Hodgson as well as the Suzuki-mounted Jamie Whitham.

Even with his Ducati running well, Fogarty admitted: "It will be a tough year, certainly no easier than last season, even though Kocinski has gone. "The real challenge will

motivated, has not won anything, and probably realises that this year is his last real

Leaders' tough trip

By Bill Colwill

pected titles.

Cannock, the National League leaders, travel to London for two tough fixtures this weekend. Today Cannock, who expect to be at full strength, play the unpredictable Teddington, who have Luke Hodges on his return after knee surgery, and tomorrow they move a little further south to take on Guildford.

Guildford, despite a recent

run of good results, are still not out of the relegation zone. Their player-coach lan Jennings injured a hand in the Inter-Services on Wednesday and damaged it again on Thursday. He plans to play and predicts that if Guildford beat Barford Tigers today and rule out relegation, they will return to their natural attacking game and beat Cannock.

Hockey

hind Cannock, are at home to the two bottom clubs - Beeston today and Doncaster tomorrow. England and Scotland

souad.

hattles are always something rather special and this weekend's two women's games at Lilleshall are unlikely to be an exception. Scotland, who have already announced their World Cup squad for Utrecht in May, will be parading their selected squad on both days while England, who do not make their choice until the end of the month, will be using all 22 players from their training

● The International Hockey Federation has announced that the no offside experimental rule is to become permanent and that as from 2 July no more substitutions, except for injury, will be allowed nt penalty

ENST places its bid for Wembley

THE English National Stadium Trust yesterday finalised its hid to huy Wembley Stadium and begin a £200m redevelopment.

Arsenal last week announced that they had made a formal offer to purchase the stadium as their new home because of fierce local opposition to their plans to increase their 38,000capacity at Highhury.

Wembley ple oow has until the end of the month to decide between the two offers, which could be as high as £120m. The ENST's hid is backed by the UK Sports Couocil and the Foothall Association.

The Sports Minister, Tony Banks, welcomed the ENST's hid and urged Wemhley plc to press ahead with contractual negotiations for the new English national stadium to ensure the

lowing discussions between the English Sports Council and the FA an agreed Trust bid has been made," Banks said.

"Lottery fueds have heeo earmarked for a new national stadium which will serve English national teams - including football, rugby league and athletic events - and provide a neutral venue for the climax of major club competitions. This is what sports fans want. Importantly, this hid will he a key World Cup in 2006, future Olympics and other interna-

tional eveots to this country." Meanwhile the World Cup campaign director, Alec McGivan, has warned that if Arsenal succeed in huying Wemhley it

for the first time in 40 years.

Michael Owen could become the youngest ever winner award. The Liverpool 18 year spell at Fratton Park. O'Neill old has been shortlisted in his first full season in senior football. Other names on the shortlist include Arsenal's Dennis many ifs, huts and maybes." Bergkamp and Manchester United's Andy Cole.

Leeds have snapped up Jamie McMaster, a 15-yearsame Sydney school as their striker Harry Kewell. McMaster has just woo a scholarship with the New South Wales Soccer Academy and will joio

Leeds in the summer of 1999. Leicester have turned down

idge. The Leicester manager John Williams said: "It is part Martin O'Neill is adamant he of an overall club plan to keep will not let Claridge leave on the us ahead of the game. We need of the Professional Footbaliers' cheap after recalling the 31-Association's Player of the Year year-old striker from his loan

said: "Portsmouth have made a

tentative bid but it falls well

short of our valuation. There are

Blackburn Rovers are looking to increase their capacity at yeseterday signed the Rangers Ewood Park to 40,000. Further redevelopment of the stadium component of bids to attract the old Australian who went to the is planned with a new 15,000seat stand in the pipeline.

lt would mean Rovers demolishing the existing Walkersteel Stand which was oot part of the massive redevelopme of of Ewood earlier this decade. Blackburn are anxious to

project can proceed on sched-would be a major blow to the bid an undisclosed bid from hard-increase their spectator capac-injury problems and has had two ule." I am delighted that fol- to bring the tournament home up Portsmouth for Steve Clarity and their chief executive cruciate operations. "I have had a season in Rangers' reserves and I am now

is all part and parcel of it."

vision game at lpswich.

fit," he said. "I was sitting at home to have a higger capacity as we preparing for a reserve game at look to cootinue to move for-Dunfermline when the call came ward. We are making moves to through that Wolves wanted to increase our supporter base sign me. I'm delighted to be joinoutside the direct geographic ing another big club."

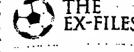
boundaries and the new stand The Aston Villa manager John Gregory is to offer new Wolverhampton Wanderers contracts to his goalkeeper Mark Bosnich and the midright-back Stephen Wright on fielder Lee Hendrie.

loan until the end of the season. The Villa striker Savo Milo-The 26-year-old, who has two sevic has been named in Yufull Scottish caps from the eargoslavia's squad for their ly 1990s, goes straight into the friendly with Colombia next Wolves side for today's First Di-Wednesday in Bogota. The Tottenham striker Jürgeo Klins-Since moving to Ibrox for mann has been gamed in £1.5m from Aberdeeo in 1995, Germany's squad for the friend-Wright has been beset by knee by with Brazil on the same day.

SIDELINES

thelses to find the later Blues and Blades trade in the black

confessed Manchester City
"nut" whose devotion survived a free transfer after vived a free transfer after he had heen the club's



first-ever appreotice, but today his professional interest is in helping the FA Cup semi-finalists Sheffield United to accelerate City's slide towards third-grade football,

Eyre, now the chief scout for United, became a cult anthor in Northern sporting circles with the publication of Kicked Into Touch in 1981. The book hilariously chronicled the life and times of a failed footballer (20-odd clubs hut only one League appearance, for Bradford Park Av. eoue in a 5-0 stuffing by Swansea).

Willie Donachie's inside knowledge of United could help to counter Eyre's reports. Barely a month after he gave up coaching them to become Joe Royle's No 2 at City, the Scot followed Joe Mercer and Howard Kendall in being involved in the management of both clubs. Kendall, coincidentally, left each of them for Everton, where his deputy is another who served Blues and Blades alike.

David White and Michel Vonk, once Heath's colleagues at Maine Road, are now on the Bramall Lane books, while Paul Beesley (currently on loan to West Bromwich) made the reverse trip. Others who played for both clubs include Brian Gayle, Jamie Hoyland, Carl Bradshaw, Alan Harper, Ken McNaught, Simon Tracey and the striker whose misheard surname sparked a craze among City fans for for waving hlow-up bananas, Imre Varadi.

> Ten things that Forest's Dutchman Pierre van Hooijdonk might be missing today



Biking to work. The 5 The Alkmaar cheese Netherlands has more cycle paths per square mile than any other European 7 The world's largest gar-

Ground is similar to an af- that it is open. ly numbed and crying with land's china industry. hysterical laughter.

3A night in the Leidseplein entertainment disurday in Nottingham. 4 Windmills.

market on Fridays. 6 Tulips.

den, at Keukenhof. Like country. den, at Keukenhof. Like

2 The cafe society of Amsterdam, although it has be an enigma. Unlike Forbeen said that a bad af- est, it attracts 800,000 in ternoon at the City the eight weeks per year

ternoon in a coffee shop. 8 Pottering around in Both render you strange- Delft, home of the Nether-9 Liberalism.

10 Dykes. Forest may find one useful if they retrict of Amsterdam. Safer turn to the Premiership and less seedy than a Sat- and want to avoid shipping goals and going straight back down again.



Few clubs have a nickname as unlikely as Montrose's, but the derivation of the name is less than romantic. The Scottish Third Division club are so called because of a style of house building popular in the town.

HISTORY LESSON

On 22 March last year, Sunderland met Nottingham Forest. The match finished 1-1, leaving Forest 19th in the Premiership and Sun-

derland three places higher. While the sides were both happy to have come away with a point, they were envious of their then fellow strugglers (and current fellow high-flyers) Middlesbrough, who beat Cheisea 1-0 to take all three points in their game and move

clear of the relegation zone. Chelsea, who meet Boro in the Coca-Cola Cup final next week, may take heed from another event this week last year. Liverpool reached the semi-final of the Cup-Winners' Cup. "Liverpool back in the European big time," said one headline, somewhat prematurely.

When England play Switzerland in a friendly international next week it will be their first visit to Berne for 44 years.

The last time the two sides met in the Wankdorf Stadium was in the 1954 World Cup. It was England's second pool game, following a 4-4 draw with Belgium, and a 2-0 victory over the home side guaranteed a place in the quarter-finals (in which England lost 4-2 to Uruguay).

One lesson Glenn Hoddle might like to draw from the 1954 game is that losing players through injury or illoess oeed not be a bad thing. Stanley Matthews and Nat Lofthouse had to pull out oo that occasioo hut their replacements, the Wolves pair of Jimmy Mullen and Dennis Wilshaw, went on to score England's two goals.

Phil Starbuck (forward) Oldham to Ply-mouth

Mike Politit (goalkeeper) Notts County to Sunderland

Järg Soblech (delender) NEC Ni-imagen (Neth) to Stoke Paddy Commotly (forward) Aircrie to St Johnstone

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Free transfers or undisclosed feet Jamie Poliock (midfielder) Solton to Manchester City (2300,000) Tony Scottly (midfelder) Manchester City to Cueens Park Rengers (2150:000) Stave Davis (defender) Barneley to Ox-lord Utd (£75,000)

Vince Bertram (qualkeeper) Arsenal to Lee Makel (midfielder) Huddersfield to Hearts

Jan Baraciough (detender) Notts Coun-ty to Queen's Park Rangery Matthew Brazier (detender) Cusen's Park Rangers to Pulham Ben Sedgescore (midfielder) Mansfeld to Moodisefield

Steve Tutils (defender) York to Darling-

Allari Moore (forward) Dunfermine to Loans/trials Ronnie Waltwork (defender) Man-chester Utd to Stockport Steve Guinen (forward) Nottingham For-est to Crewe Stave Wright (defender) Rangers to Wolves

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canade Square, Canary Whart, London E14 5DL e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk



Aaron Lawrence, one of Jamaica's goalkeepers, trains at Ealing, west London, yesterday in preparation for tomorrow's game against Queen's Park Rangers Photograph: Peter Jay

Loftus Road the first stop for Jamaica

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS in London. "It has given the and Santos of Brazil have little nation so much hope. They are in common, but they will soon an inspiration to show people have had a shared experience. what they cao achieve. Along with sides as diverse as Wales, Saudi Arahia and South English-based players in the Reggae Boyz of Jamaica on by midfielder, became the latthe foothall field and experienced the hype surrounding them off it.

Since 16 November last year, wheo Jamaica became the first English-speaking Caribbean nation to qualify for the World Cup finals (and the island was granted a public holiday), the Reggae Boyz have become national heroes. As they prepare to meet Queen's Park Rangers tomorrow, and Wales in Cardiff next Wednesday, optimism is running high.

"There is a tremendous feeling in Jamaica. Everyone is singing and praying for the football team." the president of the Jamaican Football Federation, Captain Horace Burrell,

est addition this week, joining his clubmate Deon Burton, Fitzroy Simpson and Paul Hall of Portsmouth, Robbie Earle and Marcus Gayle of Wimhledon,

and Frank Sinclair of Chelsea. These players may become central to the World Cup squad, but it was primarily Jamaicabased players, spearheaded by the forward Andy Williams, who did most to secure quali-

come the summer, hut Jamaica's coach, the Braziliao Rene Simoes, said last week that there was not a problem. "I hold discussions with [long-standsaid yesterday at a receptional ing squad members]) to 1978 and did not even attempt and Iran, it will not be too tax- see the Jamaica games." the Jamaican High Commission evaluate whether these [over- to get to Spain in 1982 due to ing, according to officials.

Korea, they will have met the squad. Darryl Powell, the Der- seas-based] players will fit in insufficient funds and a poorly

maica's Sportsman of the Year. fication over the past two years. Questions have been asked whether the players' varied origins may present difficulties ended io ignominy after 17 rankings and fear nohody.

structure their side.

The hype is growing as the pride of the Caribbean prepare for their appearance in There are currently seven the World Cup. Nick Harris reports

> they are trying out before invitsquad," he said. The Simoes appay their Fifa affiliation fees, proach would appear to be and in 1990 and 1994 they were supported by the fans at home. simply not good enough.
>
> I are month the English-based Under Simoes, however,

> The island's previous attempts to qualify for the World this time. Their first two efforts, for the 1966 and 1970 tournaments, were fruitless. Their nament, and they currectly campaign running up to 1974 stand at No 33 in the world players were suspended for bad behaviour oo a tour to Bermn- side will play up to 12 games in da, and Jamaica withdrew to re-

with the team chemistry while prepared team. In 1986, they were unable to attempt to qualing them officially to join the ify because they had failed to

Deon Burton was voted Ja- Jamaica have become the powerhouse of Caribbean foothall. In 1996 they were awarded Fifa's "Best Mover" they finished a respectable fourth in the Gold Cup tour-

> On their current tour, the six countries in 10 weeks. Al-

retary of the JFF, said. "The players based in Jamaica are not playing in top leagues day-today, and need that experience. We need to give the players the maximum exposure possible."
He added that the Englishbased players will not be expected to play in all the warm-up games.

Whoever eventually represeots Jamaica in France, Bernard Burrell, a Londonbased correspondent for Radio Jamaica, says the success of the team will have repercussions far Cup were less successful than accolade. In February this year heyond the island. "It's no longer just a Jamaican thing," he said. "It goes beyond political and cultural boundaries. This is a phenomenon." He added that the ream have fanatical support throughout the Caribbean and large fan bases in the United States, Britain and Africa. "I've though their schedule will take even had Nigerians coming up They failed to qualify in them as far afield as the Far East to me saying that they want to

"Jamaica's situation is unique." not been lost on the marketing Horace Reid, the general sec- men. The team filmed an advert for the Jamaican Tourism Board last week which will be shown around the world. Throughout yesterday's press conference, Captain Burrell repeatedly interrupted to clarify who are the Boyz' official sponsors. "Joe Bloggs clothing are the official sportswear sponsor," be said. He declined to say how much their involvement was worth, but £1m has been suggested by some sources.

"I'd just like to clarify that Carpor International are the official kit sponsors," Burrell said later, after being passed a note to remind him. Similar notes reminded him to mention Cable and Wireless, Keotucky Fried Chickeo and Courts Fur-The Reggae Boyz' World

Cup odyssey is expected to generate in excess of £10m for football at grass-roots level in Jamaica. That might mean it will not take another 32 years before The appeal of the side has they qualify for the World Cup.

Injury rules Gallacher out of Scotland squad for warm-up

By Alan Nixon

KEVIN GALLACHER will miss Scotland's World Cup warm-up match with Denmark because of a nagging stomach strain. The Blackburn Rovers striker failed a fitness test yes- a test but it's not right yet. I will terday and his cluh manager, just have to keep working on my Roy Hodgson, withdrew the Scot from the party to face the Danes on Wednesday.

Instead, Gallacher will be

league match," Gallucher said. "My stomach is just not right. I've done a lot of work in training this week, maybe too much. I've had recovery programme."

Falkirk travel to Love Street lems. However, to secure their for a First Division match against long-term safety a new owner is St Mirren today believing they now viewed as essential beworking on his fitness at the end can still fulfil their fixtures. It is of a frustrating month in which understood they are £1.5m in he has also been suspended for deht, with the Inland Revenue coach, is annous for normal ser-shape at times in the second to side lie five points admit of

self any justice for Scotland. I it is estimated these debts could would rather stay here and get be rising by around £30,000 a myself fit and be back for the next month. Although the club can expect a financial boost from their Scottish Cup semi-final appearance against Hearts, a liquidator has been appointed.

The players have agreed to take a 50 per cent cut in pay to help ease their financial probcause of the club's rising debts.

Wim Jansen, the Celtic head

want to lift the title. Jansen took his team aside this week to talk Sunday at home to Dundee United, when Celtic let a onegoal lead slip in reckless pursuit of a decisive second strike.

That meant a chance to move seven points clear at the top of the Premier Division was spurned. Jansen said: "Against Dundee United we played very well in the first half, but lost our

lessons they must absorb if they is very important for the way we want to play." With Eoin Jess back in form

through what went wrong last and the Scotland squad, Celtic will miss the influence of Alan Stubbs (groin) at the back on a day when defeat, if Rangers were to win at home, would transform the championship

Rangers recall their 31-yearold midfielder Ian Durrant to the squad that faces St Johnstone at Ibrox. Walter Smith's three games. "I would not do my- owed £400,000 of that sum and vice to be resumed at Aberdeen draw 1-1, and we have spoken Celtic and three behind second-

after lecturing his players on the about this problem because it placed Hearts. He will be able to call on the midfielder Jonas Thern, who returns from suspension, but both Paul Gascoigne (ankle and stomach injuries) and Brian Laudrup

St Johnstone are chasing

their first double over Rangers

in 27 years after winning at Mc-

(back) will miss the game.

Diarmid Park earlier in the season. But their manager, Paul Sturrock, knows they face a daunting 90 minutes at Ibrox. "Rangers are in a must-win ssituation so we can expect a

· Chelsea to face Italian challenge

By Catherine Riley

The Burney Bridge bell for the state of the

The state of the s

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> CHELSEA, England's sole representatives in Europe following the exits of Aston Villa and Manchester United earlier this week, have been drawn against Vicenza in the semi-finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

Following a nervous start to Thursday's quarter-final second leg. Chelsea completed a 5-2 aggregate victory against Real Betis. Their next opponents were in even more impressive scoring form, beating the Dutch side Roda JC Kerkrade 5-1 on the night, 9-1 on aggregate.

However, despite that performance, the Italian side are struggling in the bottom half of Serie A., which has given Chelsea hope of reaching their first European final for 27 years.

The Chelsea player-coach, Gianluca Vialli, was delighted after his side avoided the favourites, VfB Stuttgart, who must play Lokomotiv Moscow, hut said: "Whoever we drew in the semi-finals was going to be very tough. It's a lottery really.

Vicenza are not doing very well in the league, but that's because I'm sure they've been concentrating on European can make the home leg very competition. They have no superstars, nobody in the Italian to risk a few mistakes in the first national team, but they're a team who play for each other. I've played against Vicenza many times over many years first of all in the lower division when I was with Cremonese.

three Italians in our side. I coaching staff, Graham Rix know their manager quite well and Eddie Niedzwiecki, and

and the crowd are close to the he concentrates on next Sunpitch, a bit like an English sta- day's Coca-Cola Cup final dium. And I'm not so sure it is against Middlesbrough. best for us to play away first.

"So long as we go there and play positively and don't make too many silly mistakes we can do it. But we can't play for 0-0

European Cup Semi-finals uventus (lt) v Monaco (Fr) Real Madrid (Sp) v Borussia Dorumund First leg 1 April, second leg 15 April Cup-Winners' Cup Semi-finals

Vicenza (It) v Chelses (Eng) VIB Soutspart (Ger) v Lokomor Moscow (Rus) First leg 2 April, second leg 16 April **Uefa Cup** Semi-finals Atletico Madrid (Sp) v Lazio (It) zzionale (It) v Spartak Moscow

First leg 31 March, second leg 14 April in the away leg. We are not very good at that, it seems.

"And in any case, it is dangerous to try to play for 0-0. It tense and I believe it is better leg by trying to score goals instead of leaving everything up to the home game."

Vicenza's next two Serie A games are against Roma at home tomorrow and away to "It's going to be very inter- Milan the following Saturday,

and he's an excellent organiser. also his assistant manager Gwyn "Their ground is quite tight Williams to spy on them while

> In the draw for the semifinals of the European Cup, last season's finalists Juventus and Borussia Dortmand remained on course for a rematch in the final.

Dortmund, who beat the Italian champions Juventus 3-1 in last year's final in Munich, will face Real Madrid, while Juve, bidding for their third successive final, were drawn against Monaco, who ousted Manchester United on the away goals rule at Old Trafford.

For Monaco, the only club left in the competition never to have won the title - or any European competition - the draw was not what they wanted.

This is the most difficult draw that that could have happened to us," their technical director, Henri Biencheri, said. Everyone wanted to play us, but we drew United and we are still here. All the teams have won many titles and we've won nothing up to now, so we just have to work with what we have." In the Uefa Cup, Lazio and

Internazionale also avoided each other, raising the possibility of an all-Italian final and an Italian clean sweep in all three competitions. Inter, last season's losing Uefa Cup finalists, will play Spartak Moscow, while Lazio drew Atletico Madrid, the conesting going there now with and Vialli will send two of his querors of Aston Villa.

No resolution of World Cup tickets dispute

THE European Commission the CFO offered foreign fedsaid yesterday that it had still not erations only 50,000 tickets. yet received any new proposals from the organisers of the Marie-George Buffet, said last World Cup about making the week it was "quite unacceptremaining tickets for this year's able" that France should have

CFO [the organising commit-event had been paid for partly teel I'm afraid," a commission with French taxpayers' money. spokesman said.

The French sports minister, finals available outside France. to make all remaining tickets "There is no reply yet from available to foreigners as the

The commission wants the has taken the view that the sales trate formal proceedings against small amount of tickets left - system represented an abuse of France which could culminate 160,772 - to be sold entirely to a dominant position and i with a fine of well over 10 per non-French fans, but last week discriminated between EU cent of World Cup revenue.

nstionals - both offences under European law.
A meeting between the CFO

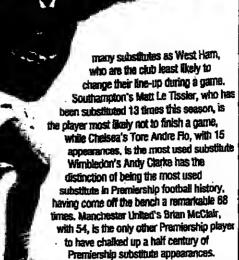
and the European competition commissioner, Karel Van Miert, failed to to find a resolution, although the commission is stillhopeful the CFO will make last-minute proposals. The commission has warned that if However, the Commission a solution is not found it will ini-

How Premiership teams play the 14-man game

Eleven men against eleven? Not any more. Ever since Keith Peacock came on as the first Football League substitute for Charlton against Bolton in 1965, the role of the replacement has been a crucial part in any team's planning. Yet there is a great difference in the way different managers handle their substitutes. For example in the Premiership this season Sheffield Wednesday, Tottenham, Southampton and Barnsley have used their full complement of 14 players in at least half their games. Contrast this with Coventry's Gordon Straction, who has used all three of his substitutes only

Andy Liddell (pictured) is the player most used to having a bit-part role. He has made 23 Premiership appearances for Barnsley this season but has completed 90 minutes on only three occasions. He has been substituted 10 times and has come on as substitute 10 times. Last week he surpassed himself by coming on in the first half against Southampton and then making way for another substitute in the second

Only Sheffield Wednesday use more substitutes than Barnsley. Wednesday have used exactly twice as



Statistics: Brian Sear

The 14-man game

How Premiership clubs use substitutes

Chub	Games .	Mumber of subs	Average subs/game	Times a three to used
Shell Wed	30 %	74	2.47	17
Bamsley ·	29	70	241	15
Tottenham	30	72	2.40	16
Southampton		··· 71 ``.	2.37	15
Arsenal .		61	2.18	10
Derby	29	63	2.17	12
Everton	30	65	2.17	12
C Palace	30	63	2.10	11
Leicester	29	59	2.03	7
Man Utd	31	62	2.00	12
Chelsea	30	59	1.97	. 9
Blackburn	29	57	1.97	8.
	28	50 - 3	1.79	7 :
Liverpool	30	49	1.63	6
Newcastle		45		4
Coventry -	29	42	1.45	,
		STATE WEST		. 3
Leeds	30	49	1.40	
	.,			
Aston Villa	of (1)	42	v ¹ €1.35∂= ```	1.4

Super subs The most used substitutes Brian McClair (Man Utd) Graham Fenton (Leicester) ...and season by season Stuart Barlow (Everton) Stuart Barlow (Everton) Alex Mathie (Newcastle 1994-95 Gordon Watson (Sheff.Wed) Jon Goodman (Wimbledon)

Number of plate teams this sea	yers son	used by Premie	rshi
Everton	33	Derby	26
Crystal Palace	32	Manchester United	28
Sheffield Wednesday	31	Newcastle	26
Southampton	29	Bolton	25
Tottenham	28	Liverpoot	24
West Ham	27	Wimbledon	24
Arsenal	26	Blackburn	24 23 22 21
Bamsley	26	Leicester	22
Chelsea	26	Aston Villa	21
Coventry	26	Leeds	21

Bit-part roles The men who regularly play less than 90 minutes players Platt 13 C Palace Shipperley 6 Parlour 11 Liverpool Riedle 7 Islin Ma. Joseph 10 Man Utd McClair 9 Scholes 10 Ketsbala 10 Tomasson (Hunt 10 Sheff Wed Collins 11 Pembridge: Cadamarter 8 Everton Oster 11 Southamoton Williams 14 Ripley 11 Le Tissler 1 Tottenham Ginola 7 Chelsea Fig 15 Sovieties 15 State 15 West Ham Wimbledon to Clarke 11 The said the said

Major weekend fixtures and pools check

3.0 unless stated TODAY

Nationwide League First Division

1 Birmingham v Nottm Forest . 2 Bury v Oxford Utd 3 Crewe v Chariton. 4 pewich v Wolves ...

5 Man City v Sheffield Utd 6 Reading v Huddersfield 7 Stoke City v QPR...... s Sunderland v Portsmouth 9 Swindon v Stockport....

10 Transmere v Bradford 14 West Brom v Port Vale.

12 Blackpool v Gillingham 13 Brentford v Northampton...

14 Bristol Rovers v Preston 15 Chesterfield v Cartsle . 16 Luton v Grimsby . 17 Milwall v Burnley ...

18 Oldham v Wastord 19 Plymouth v Bristol City 23 Southend v Bournemouth ... 21 Waisel v Wigen 22 Wreshern v Wycombe .

Third Division 24 Brighton v Cambridge 25 Doncaster v Lincoln ,....... 26 Hull v Curdiff

23 York v Fulham .

27 Leyton Orient v Darlington 29 Manufield v Shrewsbury . 29 Manufield v Exeter 30 Notts County v Colchester 31 Peterborough v Chester ... 32 Rochdale v Hartlepool 33 Scunthorps v Rotherham 34 Swenses v Scarborough.

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

35 Torquey v Barnet

36 Aberdeen v Celtic .. 37 Dundee Utd v Hearts 38 Hibernian v Motherwell 39 Kilmarnock v Dunfermine 40 Rangers v St Johrstone

41 Airdrie v Stirling Albion . - Hamilton v Dundee (20)

42 Morton v Partick 44 St Mirren v Fallork .. Second Division

45 Brechm v Clyde...... 46 Invertees CT v Oveen of Sth 47 Livingston v East File 48 Stenhousemur v Clydebank

Third Division - Alloa v Albion Royers., - Berwick v Ross County - Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park ..

- Dumbarton v Abromb

- Montrose v East Stirling.

49 Strancaer v Fortar .

TOMORROW

Nationwide League First Division

Police on alert as Iranians take to the road in France

IRAN this week became the first of the World Cup finalists to arrive in France for a tour of the country which will host the tournament.

The Iranians have embarked on a three-match tour against opponents from the French First Division. The aim is to help the players become used to playing in France; results are of secondary importance.

The first game of their trip, on Tuesday, resulted in a I-0 loss to Guingamp. "The defence stayed back too much." Tomislav Ivic, Iran's Croatian coach, who was once in charge of Paris St- Germain, said. "You can't win if you don't take risks. But these players have talent and we still have three months in which to improve." The Iranians were due to play Nantes last night and finish with a match in

Montpellier on Tuesday. The presence of the Iranians has also provided some useful practice in surveillance measures for the crack French police force RAID (Research, Assistance, Intervention, Dissuasion). "For us it's a chance to hang around and test our mechanisms before the finals," their commander, Loic Janot, said.

Hungary

GIORGIO CHINAGLIA, the former Italian international centre-forward who began his playing career with Swansea City, is the figurehead of a £16m bid by an American company to buy the Budapest

club, Ferencyaros. Chinaglia, who went on to play for Lazio and New York Cosmos, will become the president of the club if the bid by Dicobe International Associates is successful. The offer in-



FOOTBALL AROUND THE WORLD BY RUPERT **METCALF**

cludes a commitment to spend at least £6m ou players to help Ferencearos qualify for the Champions' League.

The Hungarian club have also received investment proposals from both the Canadian-based International Management Group and from the British-based English National Investment Compa-

ny, which also has controlling interests in Slavia Prague, AEK Athens and the Italian cluh, Vicenza.

The removal of Slavia and AEK from the Cup-Winners' Cup on Thursday means that seconds of the game, the com-Uefa, European football's rul- mentator employed by the ing body, has avoided what would have been a very tricky problem. If the Czech and Greek sides had won their quarter-final ties, every semifinalist apart from Chelsea would have been controlled by the same company.

United States

LAST weekend's opening fixture of the new Major League Soccer season was an uncomfortable experience for Jaime Moreno, the Bolivian international forward who has had two spells with Middles-

Moreno, who plays for Washington DC United and was the league's top scorer last year, was sent off after just 28 minutes of the encounter with Miami Fusion for a retaliatory foul on the Miami defend-

8 days until the start of the World Cup finals...

THE Dutch World Cup squad have had a few uncom-fortable truths spelled out to them by Johan Cruyff, the multi-talented player from the great Netherlands side of the 1970s who went on to coach Barcelona. Cruyff said: this week that the Dutch squad needs "a knite at its back" if it is to succeed at the finals in France. The Dotch need a lot of pressura," he added. "If we can get away with doing something 90 per cent, we certainly won't go for it 100 per cent. The Dutch players have to say what they want. Do they want to play well to highlight their individual skills or do they want the team to play well? If everyone works for the team, then I think the Netherlands can go a long way. If not, I don't think we stand

Moreno should have known better than to tangle with Kooiman. After the rugged US international centre-half had committed his first offence in the opening television network ESPN gleefully announced: "Kooiman has committed more fouls than any other player in Major League Soccer history!"

Despite being short-staffed for over an hour, a Washington side including John Harkes and Roy Wegerle gained a 2-0 win over Miami, who are in their first MLS season and fielded the Colombian playmaker Carlos Valderrama.

Miami could not afford to play in the city's famous Orange Bowl stadium, so they stage their home games at Lockhart stadium in nearby Fort Landerdale. They entertain the league's other newcomers, Chicago Fire, there

IN the sporting arena, if not elsewhere, the Vietnamese police do not exactly have an unblemished reputation. The newspaper Nguoi Lao

Dong reported yesterday that the football federation in Hanoi is seeking to suspend five coaches following allegations of match-fixing in last year's national championship. No fewer than three are from police teams, Hanoi, Haiphong and Ho Chi Minh City. The federation is also seeking a lifetime ban on the captains of the Hanoi police team and the Ho Chi Minh City Customs side.

Media reports have said at least 74 managers and players were involved in fixing matches in the 1997 season. All but one of the 12 teams in the league were implicated.





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Coaching overhaul means end of era

Glenn Moore goes back to the classroom where a revolution in English football is taking place

IT WAS long ago, Bobby Moore was still playing for England and the Bay City Rollers singing for Scotland. I had just turned 10 and was about to play on a full-sized football pitch for the first time.

It is not an experience you forget. the pitch seemed vast but Mr Hawkins, who "coached" the school football team, knew how to stop us runniog after the ball in a pack. Your dad was a right-back, so you play there. Stay on that side and don't cross the half-way line."

That memory came back this week as the English Schools FA lamented the end of an era. The victory over Brazil last Saturday was the last Wembley international to be run by the blazers and mortar boards. Now the professionals, led by Howard Wilkinson, the FA's Technical Director, will be in charge of youth development.

The change is part of a revolution in English coaching as outlined in Wilkinson's Charter for Quality. Among the most significant measures is a belated overhaul of the coaching system to ensure well-meaning amateurs will not be replaced by unsuitable professionals.

Two years ago I took the FA Preliminary Coaching Badge, the lower tier qualification. A 30-hour course spent entirely on the training pitch apart from a basic examination on the laws of the game - it was interesting and instructive but fundamentally flawed. There was oo mention of nutrition, physiology, sports medicine, injuries, warm-ups or warm-downs. Those who passed were unleashed on players with no further supervision and no requirement to keep their knowledge up to date.

The course was at least 25 years old and it showed. Glenn Hoddle had not bothered doing it, or the full hadge, the upper qualification, nor bad many other managers from park to Premiership.

Last month I took the Prelim's replacement, the FA coaching certificate. Costing £90 it was designed in accordance with Uefa guidelines and in conjunction with the Professional Footballers' Association and Loughborough University. It was launched amid fanfare by the likes of Alex Fergusoo and Steve Heighway last autumn, but would it be any better?

Early indications were oot promising. At around 9am one Monday just over 30 of us wandered into the University of Loodon's playing asked to squeeze into a classroom



Glenn Moore, the Independent's football correspondent, holds forth during his course for the FA coaching certificate at Wimbledon last month

reminiscent of Tom Brown's schooldays. There was a blackboard but not enough desks. We gazed wistfully at the pitches outside. A dated Charles Hughes coaching book was passed around. This was the new, singingand-dancing "modern" course?

we talked about preparation: how to standby to go to the Gulf - several set up a session, the equipment re- close colleagues were already there, used to be rare," said Mark, who ran quired, aspects of health and safety, warming-up, cooling-down. It sure you had contact numbers for players' next-of-kin and knew where graduated students. a phone was; checking for things like broken glass that might cause injury

cluded students of West Indian, school Imad the massear, wanted an- was on Fulham's youth coaching

I had been worried about the difficulty of fitting the course around was sacked and Gianluca Vialli held his first press conference - but my concerns were put in perspective by Stu-

nel, several teachers (it was half-term), was mostly common sense - making a hairdresser, a sports masseur, a sur- tions." veyor, a shipping importer and recently

Motives varied. Two already coached professionally, at Fulham and groups and general debate, not lec- ification. Stuart, who was coming out suffered a considerable drop-out. tures, also broke the ice before we of the RAF, was one of several who The bold response was to run two headed for the pitches. We were aged wanted to work in America at sum-courses alongside each other, one 20-45 but mainly in our 30s, all male mer camps. Des and Andy, a father taken by county coach Keith Boanas, fields near Wimbledoo and were except Michelle, a teacher, and in- and son, intended to open a football the other by Kenny Bremner, who

ing with clubs. "Badger" had been asked to coach his nephew's team and work - it was the week Frank Clark felt be ought to do it properly.

He was not alone. One encouraging aspect for Wilkinson's reform was the number of students who It was. For the next 75 minutes art. A member of the RAF, he was on coached local youth or boys' teams and wanted to be better qualified. "It There were other military person- an under-12 side, "but now most junior team managers have qualifica-

> Most courses are at weekends, this was Monday to Friday, 9.30 till about 4.30, 50 hours in total, plus an evening studying the laws and an-

middle-eastern and Asian descent, other string to his bow when work- staff. Both had been decent nooleague players.

The paperwork went oo to include attitudes and ethics, physiology, overuse injuries, how to spot and guard against child abuse, nutrition, and further advice on the mechanics of coaching. The Hughes book was used for its training routine, his "direct-play" (old-style Wimhledon) philosophy was not mentioned.

The practical aspect is largely unchanged but there was a greater emphasis oo coaching us to coach. We ing with the ball, or winning the ball topped up their regular wages play- and without the latter you cannot make love and how to play football." ing noo-League on Saturdays.

your three topics. Now you go away and do 16 hours recorded coaching. half with adults, half with kids, then

come back to be assessed on two further topics. Only then can you pass. sensible idea but not everyone has access to teams and this is a major reason why people do not come back to complete the course. One student said work with a top Ryman League team

Those who pass - and failures can coach the likes of Juventus or Ajax. Oo the old course you were They are among the very few pan- ain't bad.

judged at the end of the practical on European qualifications in any area of employment and, in time, will be

required to coach in the Premiership. None of my group will reach such heights but all appeared to enjoy and benefit from the week. The course is Our reassessment is in May but one a significant advance and most coachproblem is doing the coaching. It is a ing professionals support it. It is also very hard work and there were a lot of tired limbs by Friday night.

However Dave Bromley, Surrey's coaching secretary, noted: "The peohe had arranged, beforehand, to ple who do it are the converted, the ones prepared to make a commitment were alternately taught a technique. but now that he realised how difficult in Tasse and thency. The ones who or aspect of the game - such as turn- it was he no longer funcied the idea. need the course, the parents who stand. on the touchline and shout 'don't take Watford, but wanted to expand their other doing first aid. The Surrey FA back in a small-sided game - then be reassessed without having to do it'. As Barrie Williams, the former Sur-The classroom work, done by in knowledge and gain the formal qual- had already held one such course and asked to demonstrate how we would the whole course again - can go oo ton United manager who beat Covencoach it. Playing abilities varied, a to do the Coaching Licence, and the try in the FA Cup, used to say, there couple of players struggled to cope. Advanced Coaching Licence. These are three things every hoke thinks be at the other end of the scale a few two are equivalent to Uefa awards knows all about, how to drive, how to

As Meatloaf said, two out of three

Vase candidates seek respect and a happy day at Wembley

THE prospect of being 90 minutes [plus a replay and penalty shoot-out, if the quarter-finals are any benchmark) from Wembley is doubtless preoccupying fans in Wolverhampton, half of Sheffield, north London (N5) and, to a lesser degree, in Newcastle mark. "We'll be looking for (where they have less salubrious matters on their minds).

But it has become nothing short of an obsession down in 31-goal striker Mark Cutler Manchester United, appear to the West Country, and especially in the Potteries town of Kidsgrove and in tiny Tow Law in County Durham, n lown put on the map by Chris (a 78.26 per Waddle, who famously combined skinning sausages with skinning defenders while playing for the Northern League clob before swapping their black and white stripes for a more famous variety.

After all. Arsenal (12 visits). Newcastle (11), Wolves (8) and Sheffield United (6) all know what the inside of Wembley looks like, whereas Tauntoo Town, Tiverton Town, Kidsgrove Athletic and Tow Law Town, who contest ertoo hold the second legs of their FA Carlsberg Vase semi-finals this afternoon, have just two visits to the Twin Towers between them: Tiverton contested the Vase final in 1993, Taunton the following year. The Tow Law secretary

sociation with the club goes excited Tow Law's population League Cup. is only around 2,000, but we're expecting a crowd of

fideot, hut not over-confident" of winning their second leg against Tauntoo after returning from the West Country with a 4-4 draw. Ominously for Taunton, three of Tow Law's defenders were on the our forwards to do something this time," admits Fairbairn.

Taunton, however, boast

side in the cent success cording to press reports, they fancy themselves a bit away from home, too.

Taunton's biggest spur is probably the 2-0 advantage Tiv-

ON THE NON-LEAGUE TUSSLE TO from their REACH THE first leg TWIN TOWERS we took our against Kidsgrove. Taun-

BLAIR

ton and Tiverton are currently battling it out at the top of the a similar tussle in the second leg. Screwfix Direct Western Bernard Fairbairn, whose as- the best part of the season but days in this club's history," says Tiverton, with two games in Rogers. "This time we want to back 37 years, admits: "We're hand, bave caught up - and trying to keep our feet on the are also on course to meet in ground, but of course we're the semi-finals of their

The prospect of these arch rivals meeting in the Vase final non-League clubs of this size. on the outcome of that game

As the Taunton chairman Tom Harris admits: "It would be a real fillip for the West Country were both teams to reach Wembley. There were 14,500 there when we lost to Diss Town, and they're from East Anglia, Heaven knows how many would turn up for a local derby."

But Tiverton have still to overcome Kidsgrove who, like (who scored a brace in the first have peaked too early this sealeg), the best record of any son: favourites to win North-West Counties

League Division slipped up in re-FA Vase is no other cup competition in that league form counts for nothing, and the

ager, Martyu Rogers, who described the first leg as a "hardfought, close encounter in which chances and

they didn't take theirs" expects "Even though we lost in League - Taunton have led for 1993 it was one of the best go to Wembley and win."

Not to mention, of course, pick up the £14,100 cheque Carlsberg will present to the winners, a huge carrot for is a mouth-watering one, at least The players, too, are on win will be those oo the pitch.

Apparently, they are "con- for West Country football fans. boouses, although oot hig ooes. Because, according to Tony Williams, editor of noo-League magazine Team Talk: "Most of the players at this level view their football as a glorified hobby. They are local lads who have good jobs and choose not to play professionally. They are esseotially big fish in a little pool, and they like it like that."

That is not to say that it does not infuriate Williams that football at this level "doesn't get the respect it deserves. Many of these clubs get Secood and Third Divisions clubs (Taunton had 1,569 against Tow Law, while Tiverton had 1,885 against Kidsdifferent to any grove) but still get little or no

press coverage." Yet the interest is undeniably there: evidence of that comes in the form of the hugely popular non-League equivalent to Rothmans, the Non-League Directory, which has featured in the sports best-seller lists since its launch

20 years ago. Its biggest fan is the astrologer and television prescoter Russell Grant, a passionate fan of Hillingdon Borough of the Spartan South Midlands League, who have never won the Vase in its 24year history (it replaced the Amateur Cup in 1974).

Grant will inevitably be at Wembley on 9 May for the final, but he will not be consulting planetary aspects to predict the winner. The only stars that will have a bearing

Tyneside's royals will be quickly forgotten

al crisis. The Halls, the royal zens of Newcastle. family Newcastle never whose patriarch assumed banks of the Tyne, oow have that we all ... the problem of having no shared for so credible accessor to the long. Having throne of their Wynyard es-

Douglas Hall, the disgraced Prince and heir to could be foreverything he can see from his bedroom window (and probably all he can see from the sire for light rewindow of whoever's bedroom he just so happens to be in), was never likely to be held in the same esteem as his father, but it oow seems he will oever assume the same unofficial title. After last weekend's headlines, he has apparently gooe into hiding.

Freddie Shepherd, his best mate, can never hope to maintain such a low profile, his your opponent score as often larger-than-life presence - as they like, as long as you symbolised by the giant sign score more - they have ap- hard to accept the derisory lasses."

TYNESIDE will begin the which advertises his scrap parently travelled the world oew millennium with some- metal business - will surely althing of its own constitution- ways be apparent to the citi-

Freddie has always been thought they oeeded but considered one of us. Having stood on the terraces, he has monarchical status through a the only essential quality reknack for identifying and then quired for a credible board regenerating key pastimes on member. As a result be has

witnessed the and sorrow, he given for the occasional delief, as I'm sure Mrs Shepherd will agree.

Freddie do deserve our com- wrong end of a good thrashpassion and understanding. In what has been a very dull season, they made an admirable attempt to resurrect the exand its "cavalier" approach. With a simple mission - let

giving it their best shot. And let's face it, they had more success in Europe with the "you can have four if I get five" approach than Newcastle ever

And, after all, a boardroom trying to buy success is oot a new thing. This is oot various neglected soils on the endured the same torment the first time our club's apper hierarchy has paid ont a lot of money

FAN'S EYE VIEW for a few NO 246 clapped out NEWCASTLE old donkeys UNITED who put in a performances. BAYLISS around a bit and show a couple of good

Perhaps Douglas and touches, only to get oo the ing. But at least they used to let me watch. However calls to Sack

The Board have come far too already sacked them many

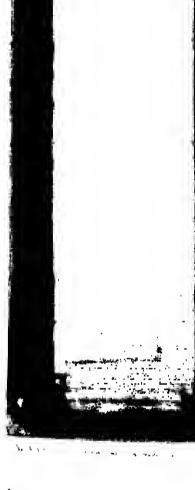
So even if we do find it

from a member of the region's most regal family, I suspect the Geordienationals of the oext millennium will realise they never really wanted a monarchy anyway, and Dou-

glas will be quickly forgotten. Then we will relish the opening of Wynyard Hall to the public, the ride on the monorail to the grand houses of the estate where men in period costume will perform authentic scenes of life in the Shearer and Keegan households, and to the gift-shop, and the opportunity to buy portraitadorned Doulton and teatowels - each one hand-made in Asia for less than a fiver.

And I lonk forward to saying to my sons as we drive further up the A1 for the Vauxhall Conference derby clash with Gateshead, "and that, bonny lad, is the ironically titled Angel of the North - a giant public mooument chement of the Keegan era late, as apparently the girls made out of rusting scrap of Marbella's brothels have metal, erected at the eod of the last century to commemorate the time that Freddie Shepherd was strung up by the

FAIR PLAY LEAGUE UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE LEADING SCORERS Everton . Cole (Man Utd)12 5 0 253 2 Hartson (W Harn)...12 3 a 3 Sutton (Blackburn) 16 2 1 5 J Winter_ Dublin (Coventry) 14 4 1 6 Arsenal Owen (Liverpool)...14 0 444 7 C Palace ... P Durkin Bergkamp (Arsenal) 12 3 2 S Dunn .. Gallacher (Bikton)...13 3 1 3.75 10 Sheff Wed30 3.59 11 Southampton 30 Visiti (Cheisea)9 2 0 TI M. Pilley Fjortoft (Barnsley) 13 2 1 (12 for Sheffield Utd) 13 N Barry 343 14 Man Utd ____31 338 15 Wimbledon __30 Hasselbaink (Leeds) 10 4 2 165 Hasselbaink (Leeds) 10 4 157 11 Wanchope (Derby) 11 0 W K Surge 15 P Alcock 16 G Ashby 12 Jansen (C Palace) 11 0 3 16 Liverpool ... (12 for Carlisie) 18 S Lodge 13 Di Canto (Sheff W) 11 0 Wallace (Leeds)....10 1 2 Flo (Chelsea)9 0



y scenes a

ly's chance to

I'm still top dog at Sludgethorpe and not eating humble paella



THE GAFFER **TAPES**

Marbella Club with Freddie and legged it for the loo. and Doug, having an early ting to a couple of businessmen tightening of the stomach.

dodgy prawn in that paella."

"N'way the lad," said Dong. the tap. We'll get one of the girls to give you a massage in

prawn. I still can't believe how me, I've not got a moment to sounds credible enough. lucky I was. There I sat, in the lose," I said as I left my drink

Oh Jeez, my guts are have been me plastered across killing me," I said to Freddie, the front page. Not that I'd "I think I'm going to have to have been rude or daft enough bail out. I must have had a to call Sludgethorpe girls

"dogs": they are all top lassies. "It's gonna to be a top night on you've got to be though. You . least the 120 cartons of ciggies can't trust anyone in this game. all the right places, that'll cure like that I'm going to get a disput them. It's a good job we guise and invent a cover story. haven't a game today, I can keep

Talking of politics, the budsmall car.

I wouldn't have bothered buying six crates of it if I thought It goes to show how careful it would stay the same rate. At represent a bit of a saving even Next time I go overseas on a trip if I still don't have anywhere to

another week.

get wasn't too bad. I thought I'd Boro are going to pinch Gaz- were scurrilous rubbish and Franco's revenge has long get hammered but there's no za from me. We kissed and categorically denying he or kindly to my suggestion that he match. The chairman and I evening beer or two and chat- gone but when I opened my soak-the-rich tax rate for mega- made up last week but he anyone else at the club had ever News of the Screws last week I earners like me and I might thinks Sludgethorpe is too far had any contact with any bloke we'd met about the Toon, when felt that tightening of the stom- even get a discount on my car from his local working men's called Emerson ever, not even I suddenly felt this terrible ach again. But for that won- tax. The Ferrari's only two- club. I'm sure he'll do a good derful rotten prawn that would seater so that must qualify as a job for my old mate Robbo. He's just the Noke to put a curb I was a bit disappointed he on Gazza's retuelling habits but nounce the signing. didn't put the price of Scotch up. I had to laugh when, early in the week, he said rumours that "just newspaper talk". A day

> They must have a communication problem up there. I remember wheo Emersoo signed, the chief executive is-

later he's made a bid.

the papers saying something Meanwhile, it looks like along the lines that the stories listening to an Emerson, Lake & Palmer LP. An hour later be

Now I'd never mislead the press like that. All a reporter Gazza might go to Boro were oeeds to do if he wants the truth out of me is give me a call. If his paper is bunging me 80 grand a year for a series of exclusives I'll tell him, if not I'm

called a press conference to an-

"Sorry boys, have one for I'll everyone I'm a Tory MP, that them in the dressing room for sued a statement slaughtering to show I'm not jealous I even miss training to visit a sick aunt. backed a horse called Robbo at go for a place double with nuclear tests in the Pacific.

managers there than you'll ever find on a coaching course. There's also plenty of players and you get a right laugh watching them trying to keep relaxing time. out of sight of their respective managers. I'm sure I saw Shaun Prone there myself hut he And is that a police siren outswears be really did have to side - or an ambulance?

It was also a good warm-up Cheltenham oo Thursday. So for this weekend as we've come did Fergie but he didn't take over to Ireland since there's no thought the lads deserved a bit The French Furze. He wouldn't of a break and we figured even drink French wine. Per- Dublin was perfect. The flights haps he's still upset about their are cheap and the locals speak the same lingo so the lads Cheitenbam's a great social shouldn't get into any trouble. occasion. There's more football Ivor Niggle had to miss out as he's scared of flying and Shaun Proce's apparently caught equine fin off his aunt but the rest are here having a quiet,

> Hang on. Oh, got to go, the hotel manager's at the door.



Back to the wall: Paul Weaver, the commercial manager who now helps pick the Rovers team. I understand the supporters, he says. They have no one to blame and I'm the only target.

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Ugly scenes as last rites played out at Belle Vue

might almost be funny. A team to its creditors and you soon forthat cannot win? A club managed by a man who admits to knowing little about professional footbali? In Doocaster the plight of the Rovers is anyand you see a soap opera that

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CEN

is tearing a town apart. To find a reason why Doncaster are bottom of the Third money; the team is being man-Division and seemingly heading for disintegration, you need only ask anyone in the South Yorkshire town. The fans blame the principal share owners, the man running the club attacks the local council, the town hall looks back to the club's administratioo; the buck passes with a dizzying, and sickening,

What oo one disputes is that Doncaster Rovers will not be a member of the Football League after this season. Their record reads like an accident report: three wins in 38 matches,

IN OTHER circumstances it bling ground and a club in bock afloat. Speak to the supporters get any inclination to find the situation funny. For a lover of football the situation at Belle Vue is a reason to cry.

The club has only nine prothing hut amusing - go there fessionals, the rest of the laughably named squad being made up of YTS boys. The coaches were laid off last week to save aged by a man whose previous experience at a League club was running Stockport County's lottery; the club is run from scruffy temporary buildings planted. on a bomb site that is designated

"No disrespect to Beiruit," Mark Weaver said, pointing to the cratered surface, "but it's like it was there 20 years ago. Look at that and you know you've got problems. The place

Weaver is a pivotal figure in the shambles that is Doncaster

and he is the froot man of the majority shareholder, Ken Richardson, who is awaiting son attack on the main stand in

Eveo the supporters accept Weaver is a plausible talker, however, and you leave a meeting with him hoping be is the man of reason trying to sift through the chaos. Brought in originally as commercial manager, he now picks the team with the only coach on the books, Danny Bergara, the former Stockport manager.

We'd like to do a sympathetic piece about Doncaster." I had said to him on the phone. "No," he replied, "it'll be an hatchet job," he replied, "You might as well be honest." That is the battle blitzed voice of res-

ignation. Hatchet. In another person that might be said lightly but Rovers. Listen to him and he is . Weaver has had death threats. brought in players we can afford far as Weaver is concerned, was the hero who is keeping the chib Pictures have been sent to his to pay. If we were a picture a fixture against Fulham two Charles Walker, the chairman might be bona fide huyers but next?

Time is running out for the team propping up the League. Guy Hodgson visited

trial on charges related to an ar- Doncaster, a town awaiting the inevitable

cut off, bancers have been I couldn't afford to put the picboisted with the message that ture on." he should leave soon or he will die. Supporters, in turn, talk of menacing phone calls. Think of Brightoo last year when fan subject of Labour Party inpower crashed on the rocks of corporate ambitioo and then think nasty. That is Doncaster.

"I understand the supporters," Weaver said. "They have all the facts at their disposal. I'm the man they hate but in the years to come they'll realise I'm

"I ask them: What have we done wrong? They'll tell you we've brought in non-Leaguers to play here and I'll say we've

Stockport home with his head house we'd shut down because

Weaver's argument is one of brokeo promises from a local council which itself has been the quiry. A new ground was mooted, he says, a prospect that has oot materialised. Nothing was spent oo Belle Vue, which is leased from the council, because no one to hlame and I'm the Doncaster were expecting to only target. But they doo't have move and now financial reality insists that wages of £28,000 per week have heeo pared to £7,000. The consequences ought to be noted because they ter that who knows? According could be repeated the length and breadth of the lower divi-

The make or break point, as tations.

years ago. Both teams were vying for promotion, it was a hig match, but the crowd was just 2,300. "They had their chance," Weaver said, "but they wouldn't support us.

That's about 1,800 of our own fans which would bring in around £6,500, so in one week Keo Richardsoo has lost £22,000 in a week just for the sake of watching his team win. How long can a man do that for? I turned round to him and told him: 'You're an idiot. When it fails they'll smack you anyway.' Now my ambitioo is to ensure we fulfil our league fixtures this season."

They will do that. Only eight matches remain, but they will be played with players plucked from oon-League football. Afto supporters' groups the GM Vauxhall Conference is at the optimistic end of their expec-

"We're in death throes,"

Crowds are down to around 700. In reality people have been driven away. There cannot be a hundred season ticket holders left. We are accelerating into ohlivion with Ken Richardson'a and Mark Weaver's feet hard down on the pedals,"

Save The Rovers Group held a public meeting oo Thursday night but the impasse remains over Belle Vue, a piece of desireable real estate just across from the town's famous racecourse. Get planning coosent for a new ground and the old stadium could be sold to finance a modern one. "If we had planning permission I could get on the phooe and sell the club 50 times over," Weaver said. "Without it and it's worth

So Rovers play oo to a chorus of dissent, suspicions running wild oo all sides. There

of the supporters cluh for 20 oegotiations seem to break years, said, "and slowly heing down as ofteo as the team losstarved of all susteoaoce. es. The whole sorry saga has people trapped in a box of dis-

"If I ran off I'd oever live with myself and I doo't believe I should because I've done nothing wroog," Weaver said. "It's not the fans, I feel sorry for them, it's those on the council who I won't let beat me. They're hiding hebiod Richardson's oame. The worst thing that could happen to them is if Richardson sold the eluh - then they'd have to do something."

Walker and the supporters, meanwhile, labour under no misconceptions. "You sometimes feel it's oot worth the effort," he said, "but I'm no longer fighting just for Donacster. I'm doing this for every other supporter whose cluh might eod up in the same siufation."

Brighton, Doncaster, where

City's chance to be united as they start life without Lee

LATE in Peter Swales' reign as chairman, Manchester City finished two successive seasons with the Premiership table showing they were the fifth best team in England. Today, as City begin life after Francis Lee with what Joe Royle calls "a massive game" against Sheffield United, they are only the fifth best side

in Greater Manchester. Royle, who will be in charge of the First Division's bottom Hub if City lose while Reading and Stoke win, hopes that Lee's act of "falling on his sword" may create a belated unity of purpose. But the fans' favourite, Georgi

Kinkladze, will be absent against the FA Cup semi-finalists.

Kinkladze has played only twice under the new manager, on the day he was appointed and in the defeat at Port Vale a week ago today. In the wake of speculation that he was to join Ajax, the Georgian was sent home from training yesterday because of illness.

He has been running a raging temperature for two days, but he is also upset about his and the clob's position," Royle said, "Francis was his mentor so he's been upset about things generally. His performance last week

Jamie Pollock makes his de- The Nationwide League takes centre stage but for City following a film move from Bolton. Royle never quite lived down a tongue-in-cheek reference to his "dogs of war" at Everton, but the combative Pollock will be expected to bring bite and bank to City's midfield.

"We haven't asserted purselves at home," Royle said, an understatement given that only one other club in the four divisions, Doncaster, are into double figures for home defeats. "But we've got four matches here, and I sense that the lads are keen to put it right.

this weekend. Phil Shaw assesses the action help us. Francis obviously felt McDonald is still chairman of that by leaving he'd take some Sheffield United PLC, though

ple have got what they wanted. but there was a faction giving him a hard time and that influenced his decision. I hope we. see a unified Maine Road."

clobs try to see whether Mike

of the pressure off the players. oo longer of the promotion-I'm not saying that certain peo- seeking football arm. He is expected to bid for control of City.

whom he has long supported.

City might not even have the consolation of the best ground in the Second Division if they Despite Lee's exit, the di- and Stoke drop together. The rectors box will come under £145m Britannia Stadium, scrutiny as supporters of both boasting 28,000 seats and opened only seven months ago, "The events of this week may McDonald attends as expected, hosts a real six-pointer against

agers in mid-season without the off a a beleagured board. desired effect. Chris Kamara, having lost the Bradford City job after a bad run, has now presided over 12 matches without a win at Stoke, who have a solitary victory to show for the last 23 games.

Ray Harford's defection from West Brom to west London has proved doubly unfortunate. QPR have tumbled into trouble, while his previous club have fallen off the pace in the playoff zone. The presence in the visitors' attack of Mike Sheron, a

It promises to be a weckend

show the Premiership that spectator interest is not confined to than 40,000, will be at Sunderland for the visit of Portsmouth. Middlesbrough, even without Paul Gascoigne, will be close to match against Norwich, as will Manchester City.

While the north-eastern duo "Judas" figure to Stoke fans af- should record victories, the home to Colchester.

Queen's Park Rangers today. ter his lucrative move last sum- leaders, Nottingham Forest, Both clubs changed man- mer, may take some of the heat may be harder pressed before an anticipated 25,000 gathering at Birmingham. The side manfor the Nationwide League to aged by the man whose goal once made Forest champions of Europe have lost only twice in a self-atyled elite. Today's 19 games, Birmingham, indeed biggest crowd, possibly more now look the West Midlands' best bet for a play-off place.

The first championship of the tingham, but not to Forest, Notis 30,000 again for tomorrow's County, the definitive yo-yo chib of the 90s, are on course for 100 and should add to their tally at

Red Rose wary of Scottish surprises

By Chris Hewett Rugby Union Correspondent

ENGLAND'S pampered professionals have grown well accustomed to Sabbath rugby but, if they think they can ena couple of quiet ones before line-up? lunch, stuff themselves full of roast beef and still score 40 points at Murrayfield tomorrow rude awakening. As far as the Sunday is as good a day as any to sering the mother of all

wide, there is barely a chink in like men possessed. the armour - at least, not a

the under-powered underdogs a glimmer of hope.

Townsend and his fly-by-night unpredictability for a second. over the last couple of seasons who among the Scots would stand osnowball in hell's chance

minds invariably drift back to that humiliating afternoon in afternoon, they will be in for a 1990: the day of David Sole's slow walk into history, Tony ling's terminal indecision, Brian Moore's fatal attack of wildeyed hubris. Only Sole, a up; bigger and meaner in the gained a foothold in that partight five, olore dynamic in the ticular Red Rose vintage, but back row and significantly the paper differential did not quicker and more clinical out stop his countrymen playing

Hence the edginess apparent monkeys out of the Springbok purely advisory in nature, that

chink sufficiently wide to give among Dallaglio's squad this week. If it is eight years since England last lost to their Leaving aside Gregor longest-standing rugby foe, it is six years since they crossed the Scottish line at Murrayfield. "It wasn't a problem in my day," pointed out Clive Woodjoy a lie in with the papers sink of making the England starting ward, the England coach. "I seem to remember us running At which point, English in five there in 1980." A joke,

of joke all the same. Woodward's unease is well founded, for if ever there were Scots are concerned, Mothering Stanger's famous try, Will Car- two coaches equipped to sneak a crucial advantage in the tactical mindgame, they can be located in the opposing dress-On paper, Lawrence Dal- decade ahead of his time as a ing-room tomorrow. Ian laglic's men have only to turn loose-head prop, would have McGeechan has plotted more public downfalls than Max Clifford - he was responsible for the Murrayfield ambush in 1990, he out-thought the Wallabies in 1989 and be made gorilla-sized

yes, but a restless, anxious sort

SCOTLAND FINGLAND

ar N	Aurroyfield	
D LeeLondon Scottish	. IS M Perry	7 Batt
A Stanger	. Id A Healey	Leiceste
G Townsend Northampton		
A TaitNew psile	12 J Guscott	Bat
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D Cronin	5 G Archer	Newcastk
R Wainwright Dundee HSFF	6 L Dallagilo	′∧yasb≥' csb
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Replacements 16 th Gilmour (Hoxes PT. If C Hisray (Havid), 16 A. Nicol (Bath), 19		
A Pountney (Northempton), 28.5 Grimes		
(Watsoners), 21 P Wright (Wasson Scotland).	Grewcock (Saracens) 2	d G Rivertree
22 G Bis Cone	(Leichner), 22 D. West (L	acester).

management during last summer's Lions tour - and while his current international role is

advice is more valuable than the Royal Bank of Scotland. And then there is Jim Telfer.

old granite-chops himself. Scot-

ting self vesterday as he reminded his charges of their responsibilities, telling them they were "well paid professionals" and that they could expect to be pilloried for any failure to perform".

It was Telfer's achievement in South Africa last summer to frighten a lightweight but extremely mobile set of tight forwards into fearless, streetwise world-beaters and, if he can work the old magic on the likes . of Gordon Bulloch, Paul Burnell and Damian Cronin tomorrow, we will have quite a game oo our hands.

Certainly, it was the potency of the McGeechan-Telfer the England captain yesterday. "When we talk about the threat Scotland pose, we have to start at the top," Dallaglio

Lions experience wheo I say that Telfer will ensure that the Scottish pack is totally moti-Africa and he'll do it for them, no opestion.

"I acknowledge the fact that about seeking constant im- the full 80 minutes. provement, even on the 60-

Armstrong and Craig Chalmers, fear another afternoon of fill the influential half-back pointense frustration.

land's gloriously mordant chief said. "That means their coach- sitions tomorrow and with the coach was his usual side-split- es. McGeechan is one of the excellent Alan Tait certain to most eminent tacticians in the play an assured "seen it, done world game and I speak from it" hand in the centre and Derrick Lee contributing extra pace from full-back, everything is in place for a masterful, stringvated. He did it for us in South pulling, top-of-the-bill performance from Townsend.

Modern Woods

The man is touched with a rare footballing genius and, if we are favourites for this match he clicks with those around and we need to be comfortable him, there is not a defence on with that status if we are serious earth capable of holding him for

He can do nothing without the ball, though, and England's point display against the Welsh in our last match. But we have defensive strategy will be based to assume that the Scots will be squarely on the muscular ball in their tackling mode and it's retention exemplified by Dalalso worth bearing in mind that laglio, Martin Johnsoo and five of their side played in 1990. Garath Archer. The Scots canaxis that exercised the mind of . They'll draw sustenance from not match them in that area and, possessioo being nine Two of that quintet, Gary teoths of rugby law, they must

England's rock Johnson ready to roll again

Having flagged against the French, he was awesome against the Welsh. Will, asks Chris Hewett, Martin Johnson now hammer the Scots?

assets is suffering from an advanced dose of the diminishing returns.

It has been an in-and-out sort of season by Johnson's stratospheric standards, hell did the Scots keep kicking it to him?"

Since when, of course, all bell has broby unusually long stretches of anonymic ty. There is barely a coach alive who of Paris six weeks ago or the fierce, fired—Woodward's Bisham Abbey ultimatum, would oot give him pride of place on his are long gooe. England's kingpin lock the discrepancy? turned 28 earlier this mooth and unless appearances are very deceptive, he is beginning to feel his age.

Yet Johnno will not give an inch; if his battered body is screaming messages at him, those messages are falling on deaf ears. "I've oever asked to be left out of any rugby team I've ever played for and you can take it from me that I doo't intend to start oow," he mutters, his almost inaudible bass tone spiked with an can take it from iroo determinatioo to finish the job, to see it through to the cod. "If I'm me, I don't intend selected to play. I play. Simple as that. I've missed only one Premiership match for Leicester this season and I think that's fair enough. It's important to keep yourself as fresh as possible, obviously, but it's the same for everyone these days. Pro game, and all that."

As if to reinforce his deeply-held belief that the only person qualified to cast judgement on a player's general well-being is the player himself, Johnson proceeds to challeoge the commoo assumption that he will pass up the opportunity to tour with his country this summer. "I did read an article to that effect, but since I'm not even close to making a decision, I fail to see how anyone can tell me what it's likely to be. It's between Clive Woodward and myself and we'll discuss it at the end of the Five Nations. As I've said, there's not much point in being a rugby player if you don't want

ANOTHER weekend, another almighty department, Johnson particularly wants made me uneasy and when the French rumble amid the mud and bullets of pro- to play in Edinhurgh tomorrow scored two tries in the first 20, I realised fessional rugby's froot line. Martin afternoon, "It's about time we turned on we'd got it badly wrong. Johnson has seen it, confronted it and a show at Murrayfield because whenever suffered the physical consequences of we play there, we struggle to hit top gear. sorting it rather too ofteo of late - 40. The been there twice, '94 and '96, and odd games plus a Lions tour last season, I've yet to see us score a try. On the first though, and while they too went ahead another 36 or so this - and while he occasioo we threw away God knows how early, we were in a far better frame of would cootinue to cut a formidable fig- many chances and eoded up winning mind to work it out. There was oo panure were he to sink to his knees in ex- with a last-minute penalty. And the sec- ic. After their second try, the forwards haustion, it is beginning to dawn on the ond? Well, that was Dean Richards' got together and said: 'Look, if we con-England hierarchy that one of their prize game, wasn't it?" He smiles at the centrate on the basics and stop giving memory of his club-mate's epic contri- them the bloody ball, they won't be able bution that day. "One way or another, to live with us.' They didn't live with us, Deano saw a fair bit of the ball. Why the either."

op and implacably hostile enforcer of the English Clubs' Charter, Fran Cot-All Black of him tomorrow - but the days the class to world class in the space of a mournfully at the very mention of the of a second row hitting his peak at 30 formight. How does he explain that lit-latest committee room shenanigans and

> 'I've never been asked to be left out of any rugby team I've ever played for and, you to start now'

"It all comes down to attitude and I doo't think many of the England team brought the right attitude to the French game. We let ourselves down pretty seriously that day; we considered ourselves a good side because we'd drawn with the All Blacks last time out and we assumed they were a poor side because they'd been slaughtered by the Springboks. We didn't address things in the right manner and as a result, we didn't give ourselves an

"The strange thing about France

"We soaked up some stick for that performance and rightly so. It helped us focus more strongly oo the Welsh,

am two weeks later? From cat- ton's "Visioo". Johnsoo shakes his hea you get the impressioo that he would rather play 80 games a season, all of them against New Zealand and South Africa, than take tea with Cliff Brittle and Sir

> "The only positive aspect of the last three weeks or so is that it has brought the England squad closer together. Big off-field ructions tend to have that effect - those who were involved at the time remember how Will Carling's sacking by the Rugby Football Union gave us a feeling of great solidarity - and if we can take that togetherness on to the field, all well and good. "We're a close-knit party anyway and

Clive can take a lot of credit for that. I'm not saying we wereo't close under Geoff Cooke or Jack Rowell but in the professionalism environment, the whole atmosphere has changed almost beyond recognition. Clive is full-time, of course, and he's in a much better position to make things happen, but he's also young enough to speak the players' language, to occupy the same wavelength. That's very important, it seems to me. We know exactly where we stand with him."

If a frowning, beetle-browed Johnson shunts Damian Cronin, his opposing front jumper, out of the road at the was that we were all absolutely convinced first line-out tomorrow, wraps two great we'd got the preparation right; I'm one hairy mitts around the ball and lays it of the more experienced members of the on a silver salver for Matthew Dawson side and I don't think it dawned on me to distribute as he thinks fit, Scotland will that there might be something wrong un- know exactly where they stand, too. They til a few minutes before kick-off. I de- will be somewhere between a rock and Unfortunately for the Scots, notoritected a little something about the a very hard place and the view will be ously challenged in the beef and brawn atmosphere in the dressing-room that distinctly unpleasant.



Coach Gatland warns against rare case of Irish optimism

By David Hughes in Dublin

IRELAND expects, and all that, and therein lies the rub. Maintaining a national tradition of veering from extreme pessimism to unbridled optimism. victory over Wales is confidently expected at Lansdowne Road this afternoon after the unexpectedly strong showing in Paris. The degree to which this optimism spreads to the home dressing-room may well determine the outcome.

there's an element of truth in of the prime tasks facing War-

ooe compares the frenzied atmosphere for the visit of the All the game against the Scotland. team was pilloried. Now, they're everybody's favourite team again hereabouts. Yes, fear was one of the main sources of motivation against a French side halfway towards a second successive Grand Slam. With the best will in the world, this Welsh team does not strike that same fear into anybody.

Identifying and ensuring the It may sound cliched, but correct meotal approach is one

comments that they didn't coo-Blacks to the somnolent air for sider the Welsh to be a big threat, and that was kicked After the latter encounter, the into touch straightaway. I have reminded them that all internationals are difficult and that any side are going to be

tough opposition." Gatland has demonstrated an acute understanding of the Irish psyche and has shown himself to be an expert motivator both with Connaught and oow with Ireland.

Aside from instilling more self-belief, he has also brought the team back to basics. "Onethe old adage that Irish teams ren Gatland, the pragmatic Kiwi nil would do," he says. Hence, are happiest when underdogs. coach, who has brought Ireland something similar to the more Indeed, perhaps the Lansdowne back to basics after the more structured game plan which Road crowd are as well, when utopian ideals of Brian Ashton. applied against France seems

"I heard a couple of players' likely. Ireland's strength is in didn't match our expectations. their pack, where the set pieces. Unlike at Wembley, I am sure we have been excellent all season, and once again Connor Mc-Guinness and Eric Elwood can be expected to test the Welsh in the air early and often, while also kicking for the corners.

By contrast, Weish prowess rests in their back-line, eveo if Scott Gibbs' big hits and ability to bounce off props may be missed. Accordingly, Robert Howley has been extolling a more expansive game plan.

"We want to go out against Ireland and play the traditional handling game Welsh rugby is famous for," he said. "There was a lot of pressure before the Scotland game and, although we won, the performance level

can score tries to beat Ireland."

None the less, the last time Jenkins' boot which steered them to a 17-15 victory in Dublin four years ago.

Kevin Bowcing, the Wales coach, is under no illusions about the task facing his side. "We are fully aware of the commitment, the passion, the intensity, that they will throw at and will be going for a record us, especially early on in the fourth successive Five Nations game," he said.

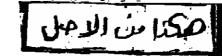
"When you play against the Irish they sometimes seem to have a few more than 15 on the classically 50-50 Celtic confield, and it is usually chaos and frontation, and the biggest surmayhem for that opening period. prise will be if there's more than We know it will be a very a score in it at the end.

physical challenge. They will IRFI AND v WALES really come at us, buoyed up by their performance against France and also disappointed Wales beat Ireland, it was Neil that they haven't registered a win in the Five Nations vet."

> Home advantage has been negligible in this fixture, with only two home wins in the last 14 years. Against that, Ireland have won the last four meetings including a World Cup win in South Africa three years ago, win over the Welsh.

> About the safest prediction to make is that this is a

RELAND Y	WALES TO
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S Malanais EMolation of the	man)
Referees EMorrison (Eng)	Kick-off: 3.0 (BBC1)
	30 (BBC1)



. Thomas has the answer to critics

Rugby Union

By Wyn Griffiths

ireland A

Wales A

SHOULD the Welsh selectors seek to promote a stand-off talent of unpredictable flair over stolid dependability, then

Arwel Thomas delivered all

the right messages in the Lim-

erick sunshine yesterday. Thomas, rejected by Kevin Bowring and co in favour of the dead-eye talents of Neil Jenkins, scored a delightful try and his consistent goal-kicking enabled Wales A overrun the Irish second-string.

The game at Thomond Park had shaped up to be a battle of discarded No 10s, with Bristol's Paul Burke captaining Ireland and Thomas dropping down to the shadow Welsh side. But that contest was ended prematurely when Burke was taken off on a stretcher in the 52nd minute with his left leg in a splint just as Wales were beginning to exercise complete control.

Until then Burke just edged it, converting a John McWeeney try after 32 seconds and scoring a 25th-minute try under the posts in sandwich an early exchange of penalties that left Ireland 17-6 ahead.

However, a canny line-out play from Wales on 28 minutes saw the jumper Gareth Llewellyn pass straight back to Robin McBride, Chris Wyatt collected on the overlap in touch down in the corner for their first try. Thomas missed the conversinn but his penalty soon after brought the score to 17-14.

The interval saw Wales' replacement full-back David Wetherly quickly make his mark with two tries, both converted an appropriate by Thomas to put Wales in by the introduct front for the first time. Ireland's a to the pared my poor defending at the second of for all the Test pitches. and it the marrier those tries marked the injury to . The beat in the territories like these court, and the ida is la Sa Burke and salebolida

property and and as-

a majortu tisabi

to the women's he seemen hour wien he nut-thought Back mi Killian Keane and Gabriel Fulcher with stummies to score with case.

The Welsh captain, Andy Moore, went over following a soin effort down the touchline to bring up 40 points for Wales and the Thomas conversion, his the property of mar seventh successful kick out of nine, left Ireland foundering.

The home side had the final say, however, when their scrumhalf Steve McIvor was set up by Justin Fitzpatrick to charge over the line for a try with nine minutes left and the conversion by Keane brought a level of

respect to the score. 60-metre interception try to kill off Scottish hopes of a first ever victory over England at Under-21 level in Edinburgh yesterday yesterday as the visitors emerged 32-16 struck the decisive blow 11 minutes into the second-half after England had changed ends 16-7

> Tony Yapp's conversion put England shead and his shortrange drop goal nn 63 minutes gave them breathing space as they executed a superb fightback. Balshaw, already part of Clive Woodward's senior England squad, added a second try during the closing stages, with Yapp converting and then claiming his second touchdown to give him an impressive 22point haul.

Woods' first green shoots of recovery

By Andy Farrell

in Bay Hill, Florida

ARNOLD PALMER whose creation the Bay Hill complex is, intended the greens here to be harder and firmer than in the Niño-hit US circuit. past. "What we tried to do was give the players a taste of what they're going to see at next terday with Tiger Woods howweek's Players' Championship and at Angusta," Palmer said. Barring rain, the course is going to play reasonably difficult."

So much for the best laid

All but eight players had to

resume or start their rounds vesering over a 40-foot putt for eagle at the 12th. Two putts later Woods had the first of four birdies in five holes. Added to the four birdies he had claimed

rain fell in the Orlando area on Thursday and the first round of over Robert Damron.

عكذا من الاحل

the Bay Hill Invitational provided its competitors with the nearby Isleworth estate, holed soft and friendly greens they from 15 feet for a three at the have faced all year on the El 14th, then holed from 10 feet at until August. the 15th and two-putted for his eighth birdie of the round at the par-five 16th.

With the tournament trying know whether he was going to get to start his second round last night, but with such a strong hand already on the table,

plans of mice and golfing leg- the previous day, that gave the Woods was naturally keen for at Augusta. Needless to say, ends. Almost two inches of Masters champion a 64 and, at the event to still run to 72 eight under, a one-stroke lead holes. "I certainly don't want to return in August or October," Woods, who lives on the he said, referring to the last round of the Pebble Beach Proam, which has been postponed

> Woods, who beat Ernie Els in a play-off at the Inhunie Walker Classic in Thailand in January, has not won in Amerto play catch up, Woods did not ica since July. This was his best start to a tournament since an opening 64 at the Byron Nelson Classic, on his first appearance

Woods went on to win. Virtually Woods' sole

thought at the moment is making sure his game reaches a peak for the second week in April the traditional Masters slot on the calendar. That has entailed much work on his putting. "I took some videotape of my putting and compared it to when I was putting really well at the beginning of last year," Woods said. "I have tried to get my posture better but the secret of improving your putting is just after collecting a green jacket bours and hours of practice."

All that practice paid off at the 17th hole, allegedly a short hole as a par-three but measuring 219 yards, where Woods missed the green and left his chip seven feet from the cup. He holed the putt to save par. "Those are the putts you need to make to keep a round together, but I've been missing," Woods said.

A bogey at the same hole was John Daly's only dropped shot as the former Open champion continued his recent consistent form with a 68, the same mark as Bernhard Langer.

at the ninth tee trying not to record his third bogey io a row. He achieved that and went to make three birdies no the way home, much to his surprise. The bare details sound encouraging: a six-iron to eight feet at the 11th, a 35-footer at the 14th and a four-iron to 10 feet at the 17th.

In actuality, Woosnam described his 71 thos: "I played unbelievably badly."

He said: "My driving was awful and it was only my putter

Action must be taken on pitches

tour was taken a stage further at the Recreation Ground yesterday, where yet another surface was produced that was not fit for Test cricket. Batting was a complete lottery:

The pitch was recently relaid together flat and it was much too damp. There was a crust on top to a depth of a three-quarters of an inch and the soil under this crust was extremely wet. --

Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh made the ball explode and it was only through a mixture of skill, ontrageous luck and two dropped catches that England did not lose a wicket in the 11 overs rain allowed before hunch and that no serious injury was sustained. Already, the pitch is scarred.

The West Indies Cricket Board needs to take urgent action over the pitches on its main grounds. Only in Barbados does it know what it is doing and the former West Indian fast bowler Richard Edwards, who understands his job backbe given overall responsibility

THE pitch troubles on this Henry Blofeld sees batting become a lottery in the Sixth Test in Antigua

and had not been tried out be- but the WICB governs the game fore this match. It was not al- in the regions and, although the members are a group of inde-pendent countries, they must each be persuaded to look to the common good rather than to petty parochial considerations.

The Sabina Park pitch in Kingston was relaid last October and then cared for by ground staff who did not know their job and had no supervision. Add in Trinidad and Guyana and none of the three: pitches had the right amount of. preparation, although this can be forgiven as far as the first Trinidad Test was concerned because they had only a week's notice of that rearranged match.

It may be that because those who run West Indies cricket, apart from the chief executive. Steve Camacho, are mainly marketing men, the seriouswards at Kensington Oval, must ness of the problem may not be fully appreciated. Grounds that continue to produce pitches MAKE any la

Antigua digs deep to cover new ground

WITH a little help from American technological expertise and a sizeable debt in the public treasury, they have worked wonders on the Antigua Recreation Ground.

John's in January, the outfield, excavated so that it could be resurfaced and fitted with mud. A new stand, to be named Indies captain, Richie Richardson, was just having its foundations laid. There was no way, the world was advised, that it would be ready for a Test less than three mooths away.

It was doubt that proved the catalyst for unusually urgent action by the Antigua Government, cricket authorities and just ordinary people. Within weeks, the Jamaica Test had been abandoned and the West Indies Cricket Board was being urged to act early and switch the Antigua Test to Barbados.

With elections due within a year, there was no way Lester Bird, the Prime Minister, could let the Test go. Realising that oatural grass would never sprout in time, his Government imported ready-grassed turf from Miami and simply

WEST INDIES VIEW

rolled it into place. The result

Unfortunately, the square abbreviated play possible.

With the rain around and the covers in place, it is unlikely to have much time to dry out. That means a result is probable, exactly what England would have hoped for rather than a heavyscoring stalemate that would have left the series in the hands of the West Indies. All they have to do is to ensure that the result is in their favour and that's something else altogether.

TONY COZIER

When England arrived in St has been spectacular, the greenest, softest Test outfield in the Caribbean, Richardson opened his stand on Thursday and all drainage, was a wasteland of Antigua is now boasting that the ARG is now the best appointin honour of the former West 'ed ground in the West Indies.

was also dug up and re-laid and a couple of practice club matches indicated it would be very little different from what it had been. But this one had far too much moisture in its preparation and batting against the likes of Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh was not easy for Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart in the



Australia 233 and 38-1 India 633-5 dec

A SUPERB unbeaten 163 from the Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin put his side in a commanding position against Australia on the third day of the second Test at Eden Gardens in Calcutta yesterday.

With a first-innings lead of 400, they confirmed their superiority when Javagal Srinath dismissed Michael Slater for five. Australia ended the day on

Already one down in the three-Test series, they face an three sixes, was the only Indian

uphill task to save the match, let alone the series.

India declared on 633 for 5, shortly after tea, following a powerful display from their top-order batsmen, with Azharuddin leading the way. It was India's biggest total at Calcutta, surpassing the 565 against the West Indies in 1987-88.

India's batsmen took apart the Australian attack, with Azharuddin racing to his 20th Test century, his fifth hundred in six Tests at Eden Gardens. Azharuddin, who gave nne

batsman to pass 100 runs despite five others reaching at least 50.

He added 158 runs for the fifth wicket with Saurav Ganguly, who scored 65. Ganguly, who hit six fours and one six, was caught at silly point by Darren Lehmann, on as a substitute, off Gavin Robertson

It was a hard day for the Australian bowlers who toiled without much success. Shane Warne ended with figures of 0 for 147 in his 42 overs while the offspinner Robertson conceded chance on 57, hit 18 fours and 163 off his 33 overs for two

Fall: 1-7.
To bath M E Wauch, S R Wauch, A T Pondro, If A Healy, S K Warns, D R Robertson, M S Kasprowicz, P Wilson.
Soutings Erhalt 6-9-1-1; Ganguly 4-0-9-0; Kurnble 5-1-9-0; Chauten 4-2-8-0.

Riley's strife in the past By Norman Dabell AUSTRALIA'S Wayne Riley, a

former winner of the tournsment, picked up four strokes on his last five holes to open a three-shnt lead carly in the second round of the Portuguese Open at Penina yesterday.

Riley, the 1996 winner at Aroeira, Lisbon, carded a seven-under-par 66, which would have equalled the course record except that they were playing preferred lies. On 12-under-par 134, he was three clear of Englishmen Peter Mitchell and David Gilford.

The 35 year old, from Sydney but based in England, collected eight birdies with one dropped shut and his birdie at the last pushed him five strokes . in front of the overnight leader Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland, who had not begun hisround when Riley finished.

Swede Peter Hedblom and annther Englishman, David Carter, were five shots behind in the clubhouse.

Riley's surge represented a change in fortunes because when this European Tour seasoo started be was carrying an : injury caused by a freak accideat during his winter break at a party thrown by his neighbour in Britain and fellow tour professional, Scot Sam Tourance.

I broke a rib on December

18 at a party at Sam's when I fell ' over," Riley said. "Somebody tripped me. It took a long time to heal and wasn't really fixed by the time I started my golf: year. That meant an horrendous start to the season. "I had to work very hard to get my game ! back and that's oow paying some dividends. It's no surprise I'm playing well in Portugal again. I love the place, it relaxes me and so I enjoy my golf." "

Gilford, twice a Ryder Cup : player, moved within two strokes of Riley with two holes to go but bogeyed the last. Mitchell, second overnight a stroke behind Clarke, bogeyed twice to depy himself second place no his own. Carter, who has never won!

on tour, also shot 66 with an eagle and six birdies. A late dnuble-bogey ended Hedblom's run of an eagle and five birdies around the turn in his 67.

around the turn in his 67.

PORTUGUESE OPEN (Penins): Leeding verity second-round scores:134 W Bloy (Aus) 89 86. 137 P Microl 67 70: D Gibral (Aus) 89 86. 137 P Microl 67 70: D Gibral 70 85. Teledibin (Swe) 72 87. 10 Gibral 70 85. Teledibin (Swe) 72 87. 10 J Cocree (Aug) 89 71; H Nysarom (Swe) 72 87. 10 J Cocree (Aug) 89 71; H Nysarom (Swe) 72 87. 163 87. 163 August (Swe) 77 77; G Dwen 72 70; M-A Martin (So) 70 72; F Hange (Swe) 77 77; S Bonnett 74 89; F Jacobson (Swe) 72 70; P Bastor 72 70, 143 R Bosal 71 72; E Romero (Aug) 88 75: D Thomson 75 67; D Chopta (Swe) 76 85; S Albar (M2) 469; J Rivaro (Sp) 73 70; F Cent (Sp) 71 72; M Reele (M) 78 89; S Cape 73 70; F Cent (Sp) 73 77; D Housel 77 77; O Coopes 73 71; V Philips 70 78; A Cepta (Ser) 72 72; 24 845 C Martin (LS) 77 69; C Clerk 77; A Garrido (Sp) 72 73; B Lurry 76 89; O Cole (Aug) 77 M; T Galles (Sp) 72 72; 144 R C Grand 75 71; D Falles 75 71; J Payre 76 89; O Cole (Aug) 77; R Clagoman 72 78; M Deverson 78 71; P Eales 75 71; J Payre 72; J Sparnes 78; M T; R Clagoman 72; M; D Bears 77; P Eales 75 71; J Payre 78 72; J Sparnes 78; M T; M Li Ready 78; M Li Ready (Aug) 78; M D Robertson 73 73; S Leerely (Aug) 78 70;

Sporting Digest

Athletics The Israell team for the world crosscountry championships, starting in Marrakech today, have been strand-ed in Parle ether failing to get vises to enter Morocco. Meanwhile, Moroccos teading numer, Setain Hisson, has teading numer, Setain Hisson, has tead to withdraw because of tendontitis.

Baskethall MBA: Toronto 104 Derwer 103 (ct): Indiana 95 Vitebington 91; Attenta 84 Wilwelden 81; New Jersey 85 Orlando 87; Portland 82 New York 77; Dalles 86 Collen State 82 (07; Hou-ton 105 Boston 95; Cleveland 90 Sacramento

Billiards STRACHAN BRITISH OPEN CHAMPI-ONSHIP (Auhover) Second round: M Russel (Gro) bt R Close (Eng) 878-458; R Foldvar! (Aus) bt R Williams (Eng) 682-594.

Cricket Philo Wallace, the West Indies Test opener, will be Sunderland Cricket Clubs professional this summer. TEST (Cape Town; second day): Set with tive first-invinge wickets of one 206 runs behind South

South Africa won toss SOUTH AFRICA - First lookings Overnight: 208 for (8) & M Pollock lber b Wicksmissing 16

M Nitral mot out ...

De Sive 4-0-15-0.
SHE LANKA - First inchings
ST Jespeanitys c Boucher b Donald 17
M S Adepartin c Cusiners b Adams 80
R S Mahamana a Boucher b Donald 9
R S Mahamana a Boucher b Nami 77
A Ranaturga c Ademman b Adams 20
H P Tileionamen not out 22
R S Kaluwidianaus not out 13
Paten (5th visit) 18
Paten (5th visit) 212
Paten (5th visit) 222
Paten (5th vi

O; Adams 12-1-62-2. Umpless: O L Orchard and R S Durine. SHEFFIELD SHEELD Finel (First day of fine); Parity Technology (44 for 8 (1 Cox 90no) (Mestern Australia.

Football

Source older to Internazionale yes-terday denied Spanien media raports that the Italian club had offered the Dutchman Johan Chuyff a 226m con-tract as coach for mart assesson. Dee Hood, the Guiseley midfators, has up to play-for the Carlobean Island of St Kitts, the homeland of its parents. Jerenty Goss, the former Norwich and Hearts midfielder, is considering an of-

fer to help develop footbell in China. Jim Larkin, the Canadian Olympic goal-keepeches joined the Second Division club Welself for the rest of the season as back-up for James Walter, who is close to ploking up a suspension. Mark Kally, the former Republic of Ine-land winger, has signed for the Vaux-na. Conference side Femborough Town, following a five-morth spell with the American dub Cerolina Dynamos. the American Club Cerolina Dynamos. THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Cap-Winners' Cap quarter-dinals second legs Chelson 3 Real Bats 1 (agg: 5-2); Location of Mesone 2 ASK Athers 1 (agg: 5-2); VS Sutteert 2 Stein Prague 0 (agg: 3-1); Vicerca, 5 Kartendo 0 (agg: 9-1); thermational Friendly; Medoo 1 (De Anda 68) Paraguay 1 (Bardise 85, Aron Industries Consistention First Division: Namelo O Charlen 2 The Times FA Youth Cup fitti round: Evertin 3 (period Town 2 Rysman Langue Full Members' Cop for the round: Certifiation 1 Maldentined 2.

BAY HILL INVITATIONAL (Oriendo, Pie): Completed rounde (US spilete stated): 65 R Carmon, 63 B Langer (Gar), 73 T Putter. 73 G Day, 75 F Allem (SA), G Sacren, 77 N Ozald (Japan), 80 W Grady (Aus). STANDARD RECESTER PING WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Phoenix, Arbonn) Land-STANDARD REGISTER PING WOMEN'S
TOURNAMENT (Phoenix, Arbona) Landing firsh-round scorns (US milese stated);
of C Figo-Carries as P Shearter, L Meurein
(Swe), J Geddies, T Barrett, K Weles, J Gallegine-Smith, H Affredanch (Swe), 70 M Mallon, R, Jones, P Herminel, L Davies (CS), K
Sald, E Klain, D Bernard (SA), 71 M Horth,
(Swe), L Hackney (CS), A Dibos (Peru), 72
J Crafter (Aus), A Screnstum (Swe), 73 J

Stephenson (Aus), H Kobsysshi (Jepan), C Koch (Swe), R Heithertrigton (Aus), G Fark (Kor), 74 J Ligbeck (Peru), S R Park (Kor), C Nilsenski (Swe), J Mortey (Sis), M Hesse (Jepan), H Dobson (GB), C Dibrish (Aus), E Darliof (Swe), L Bernverunt (Bra), S Stud-wick (GB), Selected: 75 A Nicholes (GB), K Merahali (GB), 77 T Johnson (GB), C Matthew (GB), 30 O Reid (GB).

ice hockey

NHL: Buffelo 6 Florida 1; Boston 4 Toronto 0; Philadelphia 3 Ansheim 3; Chicago 1 Mon-trael 0; Celorado 4 Phoenix 3. Motorcycling
WORLD SUPERBINE CHAMPIONISHSP
First roand (Philip Island, Aus) Camillying tisses: 1 A Sight (NZ) (Castril Honds)
Inin 3476862; 2 P Godderd (Aus) (Suzuin); 1:34788; 3 Norhyuki Haga (Japan)
(Nematra) 1:34596; 4 T Cooker (Aus) (Duzel)
1:35257; 5 C Pogarty (CS) (Ducel) 1:35425;
5 P-F Chi (ti) (Duzel) 1:35427; 7 C Edwards
(LS) (Castril Honds) 1:35458; 8 J Whithers
(S) (Suzuki) 1:35390; 8 A Varregand
(Japan) (Karramel) 1:35725; 10 M Wills Aus
(Suzuki) 1:35986. Motor racing

(Barcelona). 24 May: Monaco (Monte Car-to). 7 June; Caracia (Montreel). 28 June; France (Magny Court). 12 July; Brian (St-verstone). 26 July; Austria (A1-Hing). 2 Aug: Germany (Hodenhein). 15 Aug: Hungary (Budapea). 20 Aug: Belgium (Spa-Han-contemps). 13 Sept. May (Monas). 27 Sept. Lucembourg (Michaugung, Ger). 1 Nov. Japan (Suzuka). Rallying

VALIDHALL RALLY OF WALES Leading po-altions (after six stages): 1 G Beens (Mar.) 3 min Dasc; 2 T Laubdanen (Fin) + fisec; 3 C McRas (Soo) + Z Rugby Union A INTERNATIONALS (Limerick); lesend 27 Willes 42 (Invariatity); Scotland 42 England

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL (Invertei-th): Scotland 16 England 32. THURSDAY'S LATE PROBULT: Club Mariety Speedway STAR CUP: Inswich 80 King's Lynn 30. CHALLENGE MATCHE Swindon 41 Oxford -

POPAULA CHE GRAND PRIX Reviend uni-ender: 29 Minrot: Brazil (São Paulo). 12 April: Argentina (Bueros Aires). 25 April: Sân Macino (Inola). 10 May: Spain

Raumolin (Fin) 15-13 10-14 15-11.
CUP CLYMPHCS TOURNAMENT (Anti-werp) First round: M Martin (Aus) to 2 Mee-fis (Sco) 9-0 9-5 9-2; P Beenns (NC) bt V Addison (Nett) 9-1 9-1 9-3; C Owens (Aus) bt R Macrise (Eng) 9-29-19-4; J Martin (Eng) bt R Griuhem (Aus) 9-19-0 9-5; C Mich (SA) bt N Tippett (Aus) 9-5-9-2-9-5; F Genres (Eng) bt J Transled (Eng) 9-5-9-6-9-7; L Joyce (NC) bt R Cooper (Aus) 9-0 10-8 9-5; S Wright (Eng) bt K Harrise (Eng) 9-1 9-4 9-5; D Martin (Eng) bt C Owens (Aus) 9-3 9-2 9-3; F Genres (LC) 9-1 9-4 9-5; J Martin (Eng) bt C Owens (Aus) 9-3 9-2 9-3; F Genres (Eng) bt C Night (Eng) bt L Joyce (NC) 9-7 9-5 9-1; S Wright (Eng) bt L Joyce (NC) 9-7 9-5 9-1

SUMO SPRING GRAND TOURNAMENT (Contest)
13th day (of 15): Asanowales (won 7, lost
6 to Hamanosiama (7-6): Higonoumi (8-6)
to Asanosha (8-7): Remelessupe (7-6) bt Gojoro (7-6): Asaintyuteta (8-8) to Hamanosia (8-6)
(5): Oginishidi (8-6) to Hamanosia (8-7):
Kotoinazuma (8-6) to Ranoumi (8-7): (Rotoinazuma (8-6)) to Ranoumi (8-7): (Rotoinazuma (8-6)) to Hamanosia (8-8) to Hamanosia (8-8) to Hamanosia (8-8) to Hamanosia (8-7-8) to Hamanosia (8-8) to Hamanosia (8-8)

Tennis





Henry Blofeld's West Indies Update

For the latest news, views aod regular up-Heory Binfeld's

cricket line on:

0930 563 597

Calls cast 50p per mingte at all sinces.

Saturday 21 March 1998

Sixth Test: Rain gives Atherton and Stewart respite from ferocious opening spell by Walsh and Ambrose on another poor surface

England ambition limited to survival

By Derek Pringle in St John's, Antigua

England 25-0 v West Indies

ENGLAND'S chances of levelling the series developed into a race against time at the new look Recreation Ground yesterday. Put in to hat on a damp pitch, improving gradually as it dried. England were 25 without loss by lunch on a day which was constantly interrupted by heavy If the achievement sounds

modest, it was in fact a triumph of major proportions, as batting, just as it had done in Jamaica eight weeks previously, started off as little more than a lottery against the might of the West Indies new ball attack.

In 1736, the same area was used for public executions folmethod, which involved the systematic breaking of every major bone, it was one England's batsmen, repeatedly hruised ies, would no doubt have felt comfort and cold spray. He was

THE executive of the Jamaica

Cricket Board has been given

a vote of confidence, despite

between England and the West

cause of the condition of the

the board, who were summoned

to an emergency meeting on

of resignation from the com-

The Test at Jamaica's Sabina

empathy with 262 years later. Only persistent showers ensured the damage to body and spirit was not greater.

After one such shower had delayed the start, it was the first ball, bowled by Courtney Walsh to the England captain, which first indicated what might lie in store for those wielding the willow, It was only a loosener, but the bardness of the ball meant pitch was pushed up as if it were Plasticine, and the ball reared over Atherton's head. The next ball, fuller, also gripped and pushed up the top, but the batsman was able to smother it.

Two untesting balls, both played to gully, were then followed by one every hit as lethal as those that had rained down during the hrief session of the First Test at Sabina Park, which lowing a slave rebellion led by was ahandoned well before Prince Klass, who was himself lunch. Kicking viciously from broken on the wheel. But if that just short of a length, it struck was a particularly gruesome Atherton on the left wrist as he tried to prevent it hitting him.

As it had done in Jamaica, the blow heralded the arrival of Wayne Morton, the team physand hattered by rogue deliver- iotherapist, to dispense more

be and his executive would do

tendering their resignations all in their power to have Sabina and the West Indies Cricket

against the touring Australians

He added that Jamaica had

uary after just 10 overs be- publicity due to the Test pitch. Test cricket. England, baving Hendriks said that the

wicket. All but two members of Kingston Cricket Club, which first. They had reached 17 for

owns the Sahina Park grounds,

had now formed a committee to

the Kingston club, told the called off.

Jamaica cricket board survives pitch farce

after the abandoned first Test Park ready to host a Test match

Park was abandoned on 29 Jan- already received a lot of had

Thursday, voted to reject offers oversee future preparation.

next year.

greeted by another shower, de- a gesture that cost him four runs layed completion of the opening over by another hour.

Morton was in action again after the restart, this time tending to Alec Stewart after the Surrey man was struck in the solar plexus by a wicked lifter from Curtly Ambrose. It was a nasty blow and Stewart, who had from the fast bowler to the fine that the damp surface of the leg boundary, lay prone at the crease for several minutes.

Somehow, the pair negotiated their way to lunch, despite a couple of missed chances -Atherton when he edged Walsh between Brian Lara and the wicketkeeper, Junior Murray, and Stewart when he squirted Ambrose low to Shivnarine Chanderpaul's left at gully.

For a while runs off legitimate strokes appeared to be a foreign component to a game of body blows and crabbed defensive strokes. Perhaps mindful of the embarrassing events in his homeland, Walsh a proud Jamaican never changed gear, although that may have had more to do with the wet run-ups than any charitable thoughts.

He also kept the ball well up,

sentatives o'. 'he Jamaica board

Board. Umpires ruled that the

wicket used for the abandoned Test was dangerous and unfit.

The abandonment was a

first in the 121-year history of

three wickets and several of the batsmen had been hit on the

when Atherton drove a half-volley back past him to the long-on fence. There were no such compromises from Ambrose, who was his usual threatening self.

The pitch, newly relaid and never played on before, was apparently watered the day before the start. New pitches are unearlier gloved a throat ball known quantities and the groundsman must have been nervous of it breaking up to soak it quite as thoroughly as he did. After the precedent set by the umpires in Jamaica, there would have been some nervous men among those sporting West Indies Cricket Board neckties. But if the umpires were right to call the game off at the beginning of the series, they were also right to carry on here, and the pitch did appear to improve as it dried.

Many will wonder what all the fuss was about and the surface responded just as the old sticky tops of yore used to, when pitches were uncovered. Judging by Lara's selection of the leg-spinner, Dinanath Ramnarine, for the second time in the series, oldfashioned values are beginning to creep back into the game. Why he picked him, instead of Nixon McLean, is just another of those mysteries that surround the West Indies captain. With a 2-1 lead in the series and a good toss won, the proof is in the pudding.





P1.

5B. --

dix:

Keen to be

Fixture lottery hands Hoddle tricky trips

Football

By Glenn Moore

ENGLAND'S weary players staggered into Bisham Abbey vesterday to be greeted with the unwelcome news that next year's summer holiday was cancelled. Instead of sunning it on with an away match against the Costas they will be running around under a Bulgarian sun. est rivals, on 5 September, less

The World Cup is still three than two months after the months away, but England are al-

No. 3564. Saturday 21 March

Friday's solution

ready looking to Euro 2000 and they yesterday discovered the dates of their qualifying matches. The fixtures, decided by ballot by Uefa, the game's European governing body, were

World Cup.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Errol Ziadie, president of deliveries, when the game was

Jackie Hendriks, the presi- meeting that the pitch com-

dent of the board, promised that mittee would include repre-

England, traditionally poor

Last Saturday's solution

in September, have to start Sweden, potentially their tough-

difficult September date and the now customary qualifying trip to Poland, whose refusal to accept the agreed fixture list led to yesterday's ballot, on 8 September 1999.

> double-header, Sweden at home on 5 June followed by Bulgaria away on 9 June, a month after the domestic season ends. lt is year-round football once more with the effects of

> > **ACROSS**

Long-distance traveller, ex-

cellent male occupying a length of time (8) 10 Is Severn mislocated around

Northern Scottish city? (9) 11 Secretary has little time for

12 Type of oil - litre I want put

That's dumb! (7)
14 African tribe's chief showing

no end of concern about

South Africa (5) 15 Belief system found in area around Long Island (8)

18 Impressed by end of transalpine flight (8)

round first of sprockets (7)
13 Wrecked room in college?

three occasions (6)

In between is a demanding

Bisham yesterday when Andy Teddy Sheringham. Cole became the fourth Manchester United player to withdraw from Wednesday's friendly in Switzerland. He joined Paul Scholes, Gary and

Hoddle from Manchester United's European Cup defeat by came through without aggravating his calf injury. He thus

Phil Neville on the injury list. The only good news for Monaco was that Nicky Butt

Hoddle in friendlies. Calls about a vicar's first signs of insanity

See water? (6) Green fluid available at stations? (4-4.6)

present better not investigated (4,5)
17 But it's the big top
which has a ring in! (4-20 Confectionery: humbug" (5) 23 Is nosing around, mostly, taking in the atmosphere of the plain (7) 25 Aunt and Hal travelling

with an Aztec (7)
26 Talk slowly to get the attention of student (5) round US state (7) 21 Kitchen requisite - take 27 Change the look of the one into cate (7) more distant mountains (9) 22 One ball is turning up 28 Reading out names of peo-

ple getting bread and a visit (4-4) 29 Memorised colloquial version of Shakespeare play and half the Bible! (6)

DOWN

Rear light, well off the ground, fed by one amount of current (4-A reduction in the cereal on 1

(7)
Cavil I deem wrong ~
just enjoy yourself (5.4)
Millions involved with

planet will soon be feeling this! (4-10) Supply haulier with no end of labour (5) Souvenir chaps brought in satisfied nothing (7)

16 Foresight to change a

19 Hard work to traipse

round edge of pocket -rest needed by snooker pizyer (6) 24 Priest brought in Roman Catholic artefact

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hurdbacked copies of The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossward. P. O. But 4618, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5EL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Lost week's winners: G Erans, Miley, H Andrade-Thompson, Scarborough; E Kilduff, Bradford; S Tiffin, Coenermouth; D Jones, Landon E5.

But it is not really good news - they do not need the game and Hoddle would have been more sensible to have given all the United players the fixture off. They look exhausted.

In order to avoid suggestions of bias, he could then have done the same for the Arsenal players for next month's Wembley date with Portugal - given their fixture congestion the likes of Tony Adams and Martin Keown may be feeling the strain by then. The most important thing for England is to have players reasonably fresh in June and there are plenty of options for

Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux, who has not played for two weeks, is likely to become the fifth absence by the time the squad flies out on Monday, leaving Andy Hinchcliffe an

almost certain starter. One positive aspect of yesterday's fixture draw - which negated all Hoddle's careful planning - was that England should be able to stage their main home games at Wembley before the stadium's planned £200m refit begins next sum-

The England-Luxembourg tie on 4 September 1999 is likely to be held at Old Trafford. It would be England's first competitive home match away

They will end with another such a programme evident at travels with David Beckham and from Wembley since they played a European Championship qualifier against France

at Hillsborough in 1962. Wales also received their dates yesterday and they were much happier. They begin with a lucrative home tie against Italy on 5 September - which the Italians did not want. They were just as pleased with the last match, at home to Switzerland on 9 October, because by then the new National Stadium in Cardiff could be ready to play

The Italy game is likely to be played at Anfield, but Goodison Park and Old Trafford are other options with Manchester favourite to stage the Denmark match, in which Ryan Gipes should face Peter Schmeichel, nn 9 June 1999.

"I couldn't be happier," Bobby Gould, the Welsh manager, said. "We would hope to still have a chance of qualifying when the Switzerland game comes and to play at the National Stadium would be a great climax to the group games."

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2000

Qualifying metches: ENGLAND: 5

September 1995 Sweden (A): 10 October Lixembourg (A): 27 March 1999 Poland (H): 5 June Sweden (H): 9 June Bulgaria (A): 4 September Lixembourg (A): 8 September Poland (A)

WALES & September 2009 No. 4 October Lixembourg

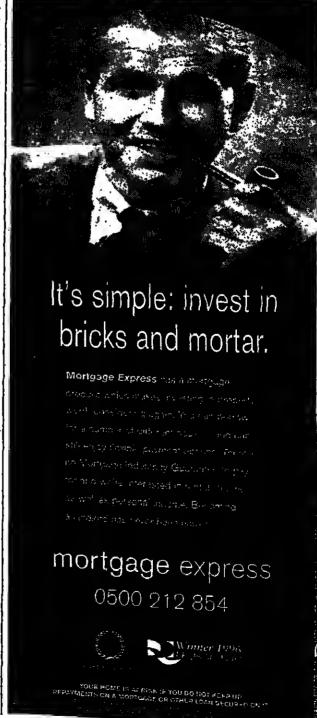
(A); 8 September 1998 Italy (H); 10 October Denmark (A); 14 Octo-ber Belarus (H). 31 March 1989 Switzerland (A); 5 June baty (A); 9 June Denmark (H); 4 September Be-larus (A); 9 October Switzerland (H).

TODAY 13 PAGES OF SPORT BEGIN ON PAGE 15

ON MONDAY 20-PAGE TABLOID SPORTS SECTION

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PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

YOUR MONEY

Personal finance and property

Budget bonanza for savers

The Chancellor has pave the way for investors and providers to keep their savings safe from the taxman.

oor surface

Nic Cicutti reports There is oothing quite as pleasurable - and astonishing - as watching a minister admit to a large audience that his Government got it wrong all along.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, performed this trick in his Budget speech in the Commons oo Tuesday. The momeot came wheo he anoounced that the Treasury was backtracking from plans to punish PEP investors by capping at £50,000 the amount they could transfer into new-style Individual Savings Accounts (ISA).

Indeed, the Chancellor went further. All funds invested in PEPs between 1987 and April 1999 will be allowed to stay as they are and will continue to enjoy their existing tax-free status. This means that up to £82,000 so far sheltered in PEPs, plus any gains in the course in the past 10 years, will remain out of the

hands of the Inland Revenue. As for ISAs, although there will be a £5,000 annual limit, the proposed £50,000 lifetime cap on investments into them has also beeo lifted. Perhaps worried at potential suggestions of a total climbdown, the Chancellor said the £5,000 annual limit will stay in place for 10 years, with a review" after seven years.

As if that were not enough; Mr. Brown also amended his department's original plan, so that in the first year up to £7,000 can be invested in an ISA, of which up to £3,000 may be in each. This is likely to increase the likelihood of lower wage-earners being prepared to save money.

As one upper-class "expert",

with David Ashdor

tar.

who preferred to remain anonymous, explains: "Joe Sixpack is hardly likely to stash his folly in an ISA if it means dealing in weird things like shares. But give him the oearest thing to an instant access building society account and he might take it up. Who knows, he might even get the investment bug." Research from the United States suggests that many small investors start with cash plans and move into equities later.

The improvements to the original ISA proposals extend to allowing investors to choose different managers for their cash, equity investments and insurance products, instead of being

forced to find one ISA provider. Not surprisingly, the financial services industry is fulsome in its praise for the Chancellor: "The fact that [he] has ring-fenced existing PEP savings is good news for the 3.2 million people who, according to our research, use PEPs to fund retirement or repay a mortgage," says Templeton's marketing manager, Jim Sharp.

Richard Branson, airline tycoon and chairman of Virgin Direct, a telephone PEP provider, praises the Government for having "kept its promise" to listen to PEP providers.

The outpourings of congramlations were oo doubt totally unconnected with the fact that PEP providers now expect a last-minme rush in sales. By 5 April, according to Royal & Sun Alliance, up to £770m may flood into PEPs from individuals who held off because of the uncertainty over their future.

In the next 12 months to April 1999, many billions more are likely to be placed in both PEPs and their less sexy partners, Tessas, as investors make use of their tax-saving benefits.

As it happens, the advice from many experts is to do precisely that. Amanda Davidson, a partner at London-based financial advisers Holden Meethan, says: "Saving is important for everyone and if there is a chance to lock up some period it makes sense to take it." be liable to CGT - will be



ISAs may become an even more essential part of tax planning now that changes to capital gains tax (CGT) rules are set to come in.

.The changes mean that indexation relief - allowing a elecapital gains and avoid income tax ment of inflation to be added on an investment for an indefinite. when calculating gains that may

Indeed, Keith Luckhoo, sales scrapped. CGT will be tapered, manager at Royal & Sun Alliance starting at 40 per cent in the first unit or investment trust PEP spurious argument that penal-Unit Trests, argues that PEPs and year and reducing to 24 per cent and future ISA are not deemed ising mildly better-off savers by (13.8 per cent for lower-rate taxpayers) after 10 years.

However, Mr Luckhoo says: "If inflation averaged only 3 per cent a year over 10 years, the first 34 per cent of gains would have been tax free. Now this element of gains will be taxable, subject

to be "crystallised" for OGT purposes, making collective investments more tax-advantageous than buying individual shares.

All in all, the Iroo Chancellor's about-turn is positive news for all savers. As always, wealthier savers will do far better than For more details on PEPs, see our

Shares bought and sold in a has abandoned the Treasury's taking some of their tax becefits away would somehow benefit the lower-paid. That was never true and Labour's recognitioo of the fact is a step for-

the rest. But at least Mr Brown survey on pages 7 to 10.

Relief for homeowners as Miras wins a reprieve - but stamp duty goes up instead Book for travellers

Housing experts expressed surprise and broker, says: "Were delighted the Chan- is expected to yield £390m in the com- Not all of the Chancellor's U-turns this mortgage lenders gave huge sighs of relief this week, as the Government revealed that a widely-expected further cut in home loan tax relief would not be imposed after all.

True, the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, did take another bite out of more afflueot buyers, by increasing stamp duty on property purchases from 1.5 per cent on the entire amount of purchases over £250,000. Duty on property purchases over £500,000 will rise from 2 to 3 per cent.

On the mortgage interest relief (Miras) front, leoders said they were delighted at the no-change decision, which leaves relief to place at 10 per cent from 5 April, down from 15 per cent in the present tax year. Most experts had predicted a further cut to 5 per cent in April 1999, if not its outright abolition. Each 5 per cent reduction adds £10 a month to the cost of home loans over £30,000.

Chris French, chief executive at Kensington Mortgage Company, a home loan cellor has made no change to Miras and no significant changes to stamp duty.

"The housing market is still reasonably fragile and with the threat of higher interest rates still strong, it is important that the cost of borrowing is not increased significantly."

In fact, had Mr Brown lived up to the market's widespread expectations, most analysts believe it would have had relatively little effect on house prices. Ciaran Barr, chief UK economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said earlier this week that his company predicts a rise in property prices of about 8 per cent this year.

Indeed, some building societies, including Skipton, are arguing that the £3bn annual cost of Miras is mis-directed. They would have been relatively happy to have seen it scrapped altogether, as long as significant resources were used to help more vulnerable groups, including first-time buyers.

Mr Brown's measure on stamp duty

Of that, 25 per cent will come from some 30,000 transactions in the residential property market. That, however, depends on how house prices proceed in

doo and the South-east. As with the earlier stamp duty hike in July, the Chancellor offered scant opportunities to buyers hoping to squeeze their purchases through before the revenue-raising measures come into force. They will apply to all purchases taking place on or after next Tuesday, except for those made where an exchange of contract had already taken place before last Tuesday.

In other ways, the Chancellor may have prolonged the agony of homebuyers. The City's reaction to the Budget was to drive up sterling against other foreign currencies. This in turn increases the potential for a further increase in interest rates.

Bad news in the Red

ing tax year, rising to £520m 2000/01. week meant good news for punters. Apart from the by-oow obligatory sting performed on fags and booze, travellers will be forced to pay a far higher rate of Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) on the the oext few years, particularly in Lon-cover they buy when they go abroad.

The higher rates follow a decision by Gordon Brown to back away from the previous Government's decision to levy a higher amount of Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) on travel cover sold through estate agents than other outlets.

The Chancellor's move means an earlier system of dual pricing, whereby estate agents were forced to charge IPT at 17.5 per cent on cover they sold while other insurers could levy just 4 per cent on their policies, will be scrapped. Instead, every outlet will have to charge 17.5 per cent.

The increase could mean that typical annual travel cover for a family with two children will rise by about £10 to £13. The British Insurance & Investment

Brokers Association (Bilba), the brokers'

trade body, warns that Mr Brown's decision is bad news for travellers.

The Conservatives' original decision to tax travel agents at a higher rate came after mounting evideoce that many were selling expensive insurance as a condition of the supposedly cheap travel deals.

The Department of Trade and Industry is set to ban this practice, while attempts to circumvent the tax by offering "free" cover as part of a travel package will incur IPT at the same 17.5 per cent rate.

However, Mike Williams, chief executive at Biiba, points out: "The Chancellor's move represents a U-turn. This demonstrates that the Government has succurabed to strong lobbying by the travel industry at the expense of the public." The measure is expected to raise just £20m a year for the Government by the year 2000.

The cost to individuals who fail to take out cover because it seemed too expensive, and then find an accident or theft leaves them facing hardship, is not yet known.

ISA lottery bites the dust

Of all the proposals for the new Individual Savings Account to have bitten the dust, one in particular will be the most mourned. It was that of offering a monthly prize draw worth a magnificent £1,000 to all new ISA savers. The Treasury's post-Budget document simply says it was "decided not to proceed with the idea". The fam of the civil servant who dreams that one up is not

Superwoman vs Virgin

Say what you like about Nicola Horlick, but she puts her money where her mouth is. She has accepted Virgin Direct's challenge to beat the FTSE All Share index by at least 2 percentage points a year for the next three years or pay £6,000 to charity. In turn, she is challenging Virgin's tracker fund to outperform the index in each of the next three years or forfeit the same amount to

Bombshells for tenants

Terrorism Insurance is something one never thinks they need - until it's too late. But as more and more homebuyers colonise former office buildings In city centres, any resumption in an IRA bombing car could hit them where it hurts: in their wallets.

Animal crackers

Collecting animal-shaped and other jokey jewellery is nothing new. Victorians were keen wearers of similar items more than 100 years ago, as a forthcoming auction will show. Except their's wasn't cheap paste: be prepared to see prices reach £6,000 or more for individual solid gold and bejewelled cats and dogs.

Anoraks to the rescue

Calling all Britpop fans: First Direct, the telephone bank, is launching an Anorak Amnesty, In which wearers are being asked to hand over their old cagoules and such to Shelter shops so they can be re-sold to the public to raise money for homeless people. The amnesty, jointly undertaken with Shelter, is being kicked off with a £17,000 donation by First Direct Liam Gallagher is said to be keen to donate one of his anoraks - after he's finished punching in a fan's face, of course.

Following the Budget the tax regime of PEPs will change and the benefit to you will be reduced from 6.4.99. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. The value to you of the benefits will depend on your own directions and goods to fature performance. M&G do not offer investment advice our make any recommendations regarding investments - we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. You should contact your independent financial advices (if you have one) to UR Placed Investment and Investment Authority). Registered Office: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CMI 178. M&G Unit Trace on The Personal Investment Authority). Registered Office: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CMI 178. M&G Unit Trace on The Personal Investment Authority).

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PERSONAL FINANCE JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Adding more PEP to the new ISAs

Let's not heat about the that it makes PEPs more athush; for many hundreds of tractive, for a further 12 thousands of savers, this months anyway, than they week's Budget will have were prior to the Budget. Any hrought huge sighs of relief. PEP savings between now

the Chancellor has either even more sense to do it now. shown he is prepared to listen, or that he is prone to cav-

ing in when under pressure. the Treasury's plans, unveiled in need of major revision.

Mr Robinson suggested existing PEPs would have to to be realised. be placed into the new ISA and enjoy its tax free benefits. The same limit applied

As was pointed out in The Independent, this had nothing to do with encouraging people to save more. It reflected the need to restrict the Financial Makeover northe cost of existing tax-free mally on this page, tells me savings schemes, on which up to £1.5bo a year is lost by the Inland Revenue.

Treasury were serious about worth of free financial advice promoting the savings habit -in return for being featured. among the low-paid, it would allow for a greater proportion of cush to be transferred into oew ISAs when they came into being in April 1999. It is good to see the Treasury acting oo this advice: the firstyear limit on cash paid into space for Budget news.) ISAs will now be £3,000 instead of £1,000.

By scrapping the Gov- and April 1999 will continue ernment's proposals to set a 10 roll up free of income and lifetime limit of £50,000 that capital gains taxes "in perpecan be placed into its new In-tuity". So if you have a pound dividual Savings Account. or two to tuck away, it makes

A cheer too for the tapering off of capital gains (CGT) liabilities on investments over I prefer to think of it as a 10 years, from 40 per cent to willingness to compromise 24 per cent, for higher-rate taxand a genuine commitment payers, and to 13.8 per cent for to consultation. After all, people on basic tax rates. This may make little difference to by an ill-advised Postmaster most small savers, whose CGT General. Geoffrey Rohin- bills are not likely to be that son, before Christmas, were great. But it does send a clear signal that investments are there to be held for the longthat no more than £50,000 of term if their full benefits are

After a few weeks' lay-off, caused hy a minor medical to all future savings in an ISA. problem, I am grateful to my colleague Andrew Verity for his sterling work in editing this section.

Andrew, who also curates that there are vacancies for brave (or foolhardy) individuals who would like to receive We argued that if the several hundreds of pounds-

> If you are interested, write quickly to Andrew Verity, Firancial Makeover, The Indopendent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL (This week's makeover has been held over to make

Apologies too (again) for the motoring page disap-One consequence of the pearing into the Time Off Government's amendment to section; we hope to resume the original ISA proposals is normal service soco.

The Budget post-mortem

Chancellors of the Exchequer are prone to make heady claims about the likely place in history of any reforms they announce in their Budget speeches.

Gordon Brown is no exception. Early in his speech, Mr. Brown. claimed he was about to deliver his promised fundamental reform of capital gains tax (CGT). In fact, it was not quite as earth-shattering as he implied. Many of the complex provisions and reliefs, which make it such a difficult tax to compute and which result in such a low yield to the Treasury, apparently survive. Nevertheless, the changes are radical enough and, needless to say, there will some winners but also some losers.

Young entrepreneurs will be pleased by Gordon Brown's change to retirement relief - business people no longer need to wait until they are 50 to attract regrement relief as it is to he phased out over five years. The replacement tapering relief on business assets is geared solely to length of ownership (over 10 years), reflecting the modern trend for businesses to start up with a specific intention to float or achieve a trade sale in the mediumterm. It will, bowever, disappoint short-term speculators.

On the other hand, be has made it more difficult to avoid any charge on the disposal of an asset just by becoming "non-resident". Until now, if you became "non-resident" for a penod of three years, during which time the asset was sold, there would be no tax to pay. Brown has extended this penod of non-residence to five years.

However, for those tempted to live abroad permanently after retirement, there is no mention of an exit charge on all relevant assets upon emigratioo as was feared, so they can still realise assets tax free.

The popular "bed-and-breakfasting" exercise, usually uodertaken to "wash out" capital gains each year within the annually exempt amount, or



Quick getaway: drivers' worst fears from the Budget failed to materialise

doubt stockbrokers will regret the loss of commission.

"Business Angels" - those individuals willing to provide risk capital for businesses - can breathe a sigh of relief. The Chancellor has retained reiovestmeot relief, which was designed to create a source of funds from individuals for investment in shares in qualifying companies. Oo disposal of any ifies for the income tax relief. asset, the gain can be reinvested, deferring the tax charge until the newly acquired shares are, in turn, disposed of. Even better, if these shares are retained until death, all latent capital gains liabilities are exempted.

Additionally, investors in the enterprise investment scheme (EIS) will be in a better position from 6 April reserved for the Chancellor's announc-

to create some losses on under- 1998. Originally, an investor could not ement oo offshore trusts. He had, of performing shares, has been blocked. defer a capital gain realised from This caught us all napping and no other assets by investing in shares under the EIS scheme. This was relaxed in November 1994, with the proviso that the investor obtained income tax relief for his investment. From 6 April 1998 the Chancellor has removed this requirement and an investor will be able to claim deferral of a capital gain on the amounts subscribed under the EIS scheme, whether or not be qual-

> inheritance tax was scarcely meotioned and, in the main, lifetime planning is unaffected by the Budget. Another £8,000, bringing the total to £223,000, can be passed to the next generation tax free.

The biggest cheer of the speech was

course, already felt compelled to block one avoidance scheme several days before the Budget. Comment on this, however, has so far been confused and often inaccurate. Brown has blocked the importation of an offshore trust into the UK laden with unrealised losses where the plan was to realise the losses and sell on to those seeking of 2,500 or 18,000 which, of course, pus-

shelter from gains tax. He further proposes to extend a tougher tax regime, first introduced in One of the biggest surprises was that 1991, to the pre-1991 settlements which were previously protected. However, since the measure takes effect on 6 April 1999, offshore trusts can re-organise, for example, by excluding as their beneficiaries the settlor, members of his family or companies which they control

- thereby reducing their liabilities. UK resident beneficiaries of offshore

trusts, whether created by settlors who are UK resident and domiciled or not will need to seek professional advice as to the tax consequences for them of any capital sums or benefits being made available to them by the trustees of off. shore trusts, after 17 March 1998.

Company car drivers expected the worst and while some will undoubtedly suffer, many are no doubt quite relieved by the final outcome as swingeing charges on company car parking spaces and other horrors did not materialise

Anyone provided with private feet by their employers will suffer, for the next five years, punitive incremental increases in the scale benefit on which income tax is charged. Remember that the charge applies eveo if only £1 of fuel is supplied. It is therefore only worth taking the fuel if the quantity supplied is more than the tax charge,

In an environmental move, the Chancellor has decreed that the car benefit itself (which is based upon a percentage of the value of the car when new, plus any accessories added) will be unaffected if it is modified, at additional expense, to run on deaner road fuel gases. Similarly, cars acquired which already do so will have the extra cost disregarded.

The annual thrash up and down the 4 motorway prior to each 5 April, to do eoough specific business miles in order to reduce the tax charge, may become a thing of the past. Currently, the charge is reduced incrementally if business miles reach an annual total itively encourages business travel hence the far-flung business trips organised in March!

Gordon Brown is now proposing to change the emphasis to achieving fewer miles by reducing discounts, the higher the business miles undertaken. Specific proposals will emerge in due course.

David Harrison is national director of tax at Kidsons Impey, chartered accountants and business advisers (0171-334 4778).

Spotlight: The Independent Mortgage Collection's capped rate mortgage

(oot this paper) Mortgage Collection's capped-rate mortgage.

The Deal: Take a loan worth up to 95 per cent of the value of a new house. Over the next four years, horrowers will pay no more than 6.75 per cent in interest. If rates fall, home-

guarantee a rate of interest for the next interest oo five-year fixed-rate mortgages (usually between 6.5 and 8 per cent) has been lower than variable rates (between 8 and 9 per cent).

But many experts believe interest rates will come down in the next five Plus points: Borrowers have flocked years to 6 per cent or less. The

The Product: The Independent recently to fixed-rate mortgages which mortgage is funded by Bradford & interest rates will go up and stay up, Bingley, which in the last year has of- a fixed-rate product is a better bet. two years or more. Over the last year, fered variable interest rates sub-

stantially lower than most lenders. Although not as keen as Leeds & Holbeck's 6.49 per cent five-year capped offer, no compulsory insurance - which usually adds at least 0.3 per cent to a loan - is required.

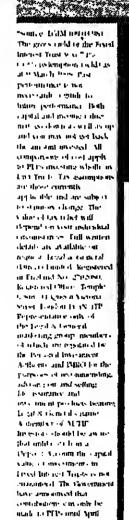
There is a redemption charge of 3.5 per ceot in the first four years roughly equal to six months' repaymeots. But this is better than other capped-rate mortgages, where borrowers must wait longer than the capped-rate lasts. There is an appli-Drawbacks and risks: If you believe cation fee of £295 which can be added Marks out: of five: Three

to the loan, Bradford & Bingley olso charges mortgage indemnity guarantees (MIGs) starting at 75 per cent of a loan-to-value. On a £100,000 loan, a 90 per cent MIG would cost

Verdict: A reasonably priced way to hedge against the bad times bot oot miss out oo the good.

Royal & Sun Allia!

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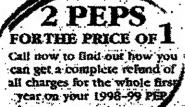
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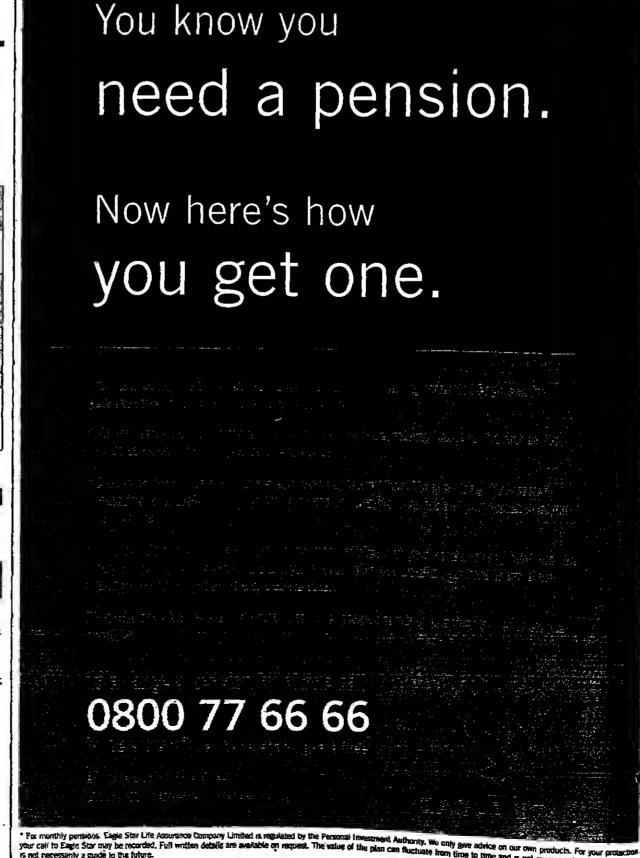
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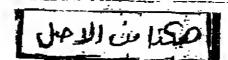
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ROBIN AMLÔT. INTERNET INVESTOR

A Treasury of **Budget information**

Gordon Brown's first full Bud- Price Waterhouse, it is designed get will have left many people for the UK tax system and asslightly bemused about what is and what is not actually going to happen next month at the start work out your approximate tax of the new tax year. He has bill Before you panic about enslipped into the habit of "pre-announcing" measures.

Many of the tax changes unveiled last Tuesday will not come into effect until April next year. If you want to know not only what the Chancellor said but what sums the Government's count of whether you are embeen doing and using to back up his plans, it is worth checking out the Treasury web site."

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Not only will you find a verbatim transcript of the Budget Speech, you can download copies of the Budget Red Book New Ambitions for Britain and other documents, including Innovating for the future: investing in R&D and The Code for Fiscal Stability.

In addition, you can download copies of the press releases which accompany the Budget. This is the fat pile of paper which journalists, accountants and city analysts burn the midnight nil over on Budget day and for several days thereafter. It is usually these documents into which the Treasury slips a few little Budget booby traps for the unwary taxpayer.

If this all sounds too turgid you could settle for downloading or merely ordering your own copy of the Pocket Budget, which cootains the Government's description of the Budget measures.

The site also allows the deprevious Budgets and related legislation. You can look back oot only at the summer 1997 mini-Budget, Gordon Brown's first, located in Turkmenistan! . but also at Ken Clarke's Budgets.

However, the huming question is are you better or worse off face under the Budget proposals Coopers & Lybrand: with Moneyworld's op-line per- www.uk.coopers.com sonal tax calculator. Developed Deloitte & Touche: in conjunction with accountants www.budget98.com

sumes you are a UK resident. The calculator allows you to tering personal details on to the web, Mnneyworld and Price Waterhouse dn not ask for your name or address and promise not to record, use or pass on any of the information you input.

The calculator can take acployed nr self-employed. It includes provision for dividends and savings account interest, the rent-a-room scheme, per-

sonal allowances, etc. Price Waterhouse also has a detailed Budget Report on-line. The firm's planned merger partner, Coopers & Lybrand, also offers a comprehensive site, as does Deloitte & Touche - full marks to the latter for being fastest out of the starting gate to register "budget98" as a website address.

And a final thought this week on the subject of internet addresses. The Institute of Trade Mark Managers has issued a warning about organisations selling domain names with the suffix ".tm" instead of better known suffixes such as ".com" or ".co.uk".

Domain names are the addresses which identify computers linked to the internet. This .tm does not mean "trade mark". As a business you should not fall into this con and, as an individual, you should be wary of any well-known mocratically inclined to check on company name with this suffix all it actually means is that the website in question is identifying itself as being on a computer

Treasury www.hm-treasury.govuk Moneyworld Tax Calculator: as a result? You can check what www.moneyworld.co.uk/budget98 kind of tax bill you are likely to Price Waterhouse: www.pw.com.

Watch out for costly imitations

Collect to invest: Forget tasteful tiaras. The really rich go for the kitsch. By John Windsor

Do not scoff. If you turn up your For rich, romantic suitors, such exnose, the joke could be on you. pensive tritles provide a way of giv-They are gold, set

with rubies, emeralds and diamonds and are signed by big names such as Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and Tiffany. Don't you know a sapphire when yoo see one?

A private collection of 70 novelty brooches and earrings, mostly from the Fifties and Sixties, has estimates mainly in the £2,000-£5,000 range (including multiple lots) at Christie's on Wednesday (11am).

The collection has attracted dozens of telephone inquiries from people who will be bidding £30,000 or so for big parures (suites of matching jewellery) in the same sale. The rich, you

might think, have unusual taste. Like, none at all. But tory, they have different associations: there are subtler ways of flaunting as far back as the Renaissance, jewwealth than toting big rocks. These are for casual, day wear, at tea par- around big pearls whose shapes sugties, coffee mornings and on the gested a leopard's head, or perhaps' grouse moors, during the hours before the tiaras come out.

Their humorous kitschiness makes a statement of serious wealth. period pieces. To those in the know, they are an injoke - although it is difficult to understand how anybody could avoid

Naff, naff, naff! Little bunnies, dicky-emerald duck brooches with overbirds and pussy cats. Would you be seen wearing any of this sentimental jewellery? Would any woman?

stylised, Disney-like features, by Van Cleef & Arpels. They are estimated £3,000-£5,000. £3,000-£5,000.

ing a girl some best friends in an atmosphere of lightbearted frivolity. The little red box containing the plain diamond engagement ring comes later.

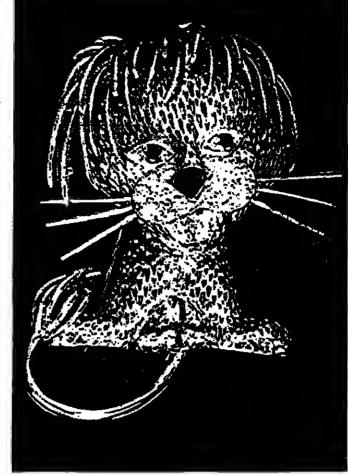
those cute, gemset Easter bunnies: they could be a tender trap. As a gift from husband South Molton Street, west London. to wife, they sidestep the risk of The firm makes novelty jewellery to buying jewellery a high standard of craftsmanship and that is not to her sells for under £50 brooches resem-Diana, Princess of Wales used to visit

Those who cannot afford real jewellery are the most likely to sneer at such gem-set trivia and associate it with £2-a-time costume jewellery pinned to cards. But, for those

who know jew-

ellery and its hisellers fashioned animal conceits a sea-sprite. In the 18th century, birds of rose-cut diamoods holding garlands were all the rage and are oow a crush on. Three emerald and dia-

Napoleon took the bumble bee as estimated £5,000-£7,000 the lot in the his Imperial symbol and the jeweller sale, but identical ones have sold Boucheron made whole hives of them, individually for as much as £6,000.



would not associate them first of all

with cut-price stores, but rather with

bling those in Christie's sale. The late

the shop. She wore their paste pearls

and a black snake brooch. A double-

take, that. Princesses are expected to

Wilson's black crystal sausage dog nr

diamante pussy cat - both brooches

priced £38-from the real thing? The

obvious clue is that they are com-

pletely encrusted with sparklers, not

just a modest four or five. The real

thing would be far too expensive for

gems are holding their value at auc-

tion. In fact, there is sometimes fierce

competition among bidders to buy par-

ticular cute animals that they have got

mond lions by Van Cleef & Arpels are

Novelty brooches with genuine

Well, could you tell Butler &

wear the real thing.

the genuineness of gem-set brooches be sure that their design is not only cute but qualifies as a period piece that will typify the Fifties and Sixties Butler & Wilson, glamorous makers in a few generations' time. And keep Princes Risborough, Buckings of costume jewellery in glamorous an eye open for cross-over value: the HP27 9AA (01844 344301).

one is £38 from Butler & Wilson and which is pounds from Van Clouf & Arpels? (The one below is the more affordable

pussy cat: can you tell which

Fifties skiing bird brooch, lotted with four others at an estimated £2,500-£3,500, though unsigned, will rise in value as other ski memorabilia rises.

In the same collection are Victorian brooches that are more naturalistic, less stylised - such as a demantoid, garnet, diamond and ruby bird brooch of about 1890, estimated £2,000-£3,000.

A guide to antique pieces, "Sentimental Jewellery", by Ann Louise Luthi, has just been issued by Shire Publications (£3.95 plus £1 p&p). If you buy at the sale, buy for love. It would be a pity to hide novelty jewellery in the safe, just because you hate the sight of it.

Christie's, 8 King Street, London SWI (0171-839 9060). Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-409 2955). Shire Publications, Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire

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BRIAN TORA

Tiessons from

No radical Budget this

cellor of the Exchequer would stand at the despatch box, glass of whisky at his hand, and regale us with his plans for separating us from our hardearned money during the coming year. Not any more.

These days fork-lift truck loads of paper are delivered to analysts and commeotators in the form of Inland Revenue and Treasury press releases. It is not that the Government is being devious (though devious and government are two words that seem to fit together quite nicely), rather it is that taxation legislation has become so complex than an hour and a bit of Chancellor speak is simply oot enough.

Take the ending of the overseas trust tax loophole. The Government claims this is a move to ensure the wealthy who seek to avoid taxatioo will find life that much more difficult, to the benefit of the Treasury. The truth is that earlier legislatioo was not drafted well enough to catch all the clever money that is moved by expensive advisers from tax haven to tax haven. This is a constant problem for any government. No matter how carefully you word your hill and craft your Act of Parliament, there will be someone sufficiently adroit and well motivated to find a way through - and be well rewarded for their troubles.

Simplification is the answer, which is what Gordon Brown appears to wish to achieve. Merging the Cootributions Agency with the Inland Revenue is a start. National Insurance is a tax in all but name, so why should other taxes?

Meantime, the measures introduced thus far seem to signal some fairly radical moves further down the road. at Greig Middleton.

Once upon a time, the Chan- Not that there was much that was immediately radical in this Budget. A cheer or two could be heard for the reteotion of existing PEP and Tessa contributions, but the cynic in me suggests that this might owe as much to the problems that are likely to exist io policing the total level of contribution than a sudden rush of munificeocc by the head of the Treasury.

What with this and other measures, it felt as though we had a Tory chancellor delivering a Tory Budget. This is oot to be a tax and spend socialist government, that much is clear.

But if the market generally welcomed Tuesday's measures, there was a degree of disappointment in some quarters over the lack of fiscal tightening. While there are pleoty who believe it is oot necessary, given the way in which the economy is slowing, foreign exchange markets are telling us that a further rate increase is looking inevitable.

Remember, the Mooetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England is already divided as to whether enough has yet been dooe, so in the absence of more taxes on consumptioo, actioo by the Bank looks inevitable.

So we can expect rising share prices, a strong pouod, but subdued government bood markets, at least for the time being. If not a radical Budget, it was a thoughtful Budget. And at least the PEP and Tessa pool continues out of the clutches of the tax man - for the time being at any rate. And we can assume that the global bull market will it be handled separately from not have been knocked off course by events here.

> Brian Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee

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JONATHAN **DAVIS** COLUMN

Mid-March brings with it many old favourites: among them, the first signs of spring, the Chel-

groupies such as myself - the ar- what he has to say. rival of the "Sage of Omaha's" Last Monday, Buffett re-

Hathaway, in 1991, the number Buffett and his lifelong business ket overall was up 33 per cent. partner Charlie Munger sit and

Nebraska, Buffett's home town. grown exponentially: last year, of buying around the world.

tenham race meeting, the Bud-the turnout had grown to 7,500. get (after a short interlude Such is his fame that no stock when it was moved to the au- market anywhere in the world tumn) and - for investment is immune from the impact of

annual report to shareholders. leased his latest annual report When I made my first visit to and accounts for the year just the annual meeting of Buffett's gone. It showed another year of holding company, Berkshire progress, with the company's book value up 34 per cent on the of those who turned up could year - not bad in isolation, but that, with the Dow Jones at its still be counted in their hun- "no great triumph", according to dreds. The meeting, at which Buffett, may ear when the mar-

Having been reported as talk about the business of in- warning last year that share vestment for hours on end, was prices were looking very fully still small enough to be held in valued, his comment this year the local theatre in Omaha, that the current level of Wall Street prices could still be jus-Now, however, as his fame tiffied in valuation terms was has spread, the attendance has enough to spark another round

All this despite the fact that, by his own admission, Buffett's actions betray a real concern about the riskiness of many stock prices at today's levels.

Buffett's views are as follows. While he professes to having no further, with the lnng hond views about which the market is going to move tomorrow, he low 6 per cent. Buffett himself does, "try in a very rough way confirmed the reports which to value it". A year ago, he said then level of 7,070 and the long bond rate at 6.89 per cent, the market did not look overvalued continue to fall. (In the event, provided that two essential con- so the annual report discloses, ditions continued to be met.

One was that interest rates at the long end of the scale did not rise; and the second was that American companies continued to earn the "remarkable returns" in the current climate is difficult on equity" that they have been achieving in the last few years.

So far, says Buffett, both conditions have held: returns on equity have remained "exceptionally high", the market has hounded on to new records, while interest rates have fallen rate occasionally dropping be-

emerged in the autumn that he had been putting money into By his own admission, Bufgovernment bonds, a ploy which can only pay off if interest rates the profit on the bonds has been around \$600m, on an investment of around \$4.0bn).

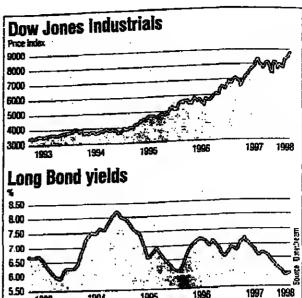
The trouble is, says Buffett, that finding good value shares even if you make the assump-

will continue to hold for a little

The upshot is that while it may be still be right to buy new shares at today's levels, the height the market has reached has materially eroded the margin of safety that Ben Graham (Buffett's priginal mentor) identified as the "cornerstone of intelligent investing".

fett has been putting a bigger chunk of his money into bonds and what he calls "unconventional commitments". Thus, he has money tied up in forward contracts for oil, and has also been building a position in sil-

ver (profit at year-end: \$97.4m). We are not pleased with our prospects for committing incoming funds," Buffet writes. "It some new profitable rabbit out world's most successful stock may be some time before we of the hat. When he started buy market investor's portfolio.



find opportunities that get us ing Coca-Cola 10 years ago. truly excited"

Mind you, that last bit can be fett has been saying the same kind of thing for years now, and

everyone at the time said he had clearly run out of new ideas. His taken with a pinch of salt. Buf-shareholding has since risen more than tenfold to \$13.3bn so much so that Coke alone now each year he manages to conjure accounts for 37 per cent of the

UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET: JOHN ANDREW

How to avoid depression after a crash

What goes up can come down again. Shares are no exception

It may seem odd, at a time when share prices are roaring ahead, to write about the npposite side of the coin. It is a word stock market investors do not like to hear - crash. However, we have to face

Even though they may be reaching record highs here in London, the price of shares do plummet from time to time as Far Eastern markets have amply demonstrated. It is not a pleasant experience to see your capital evaporate into thin air but there is not a great deal golden rule is not to panic.

evitably they will respond, "Wall Street 1929; Black Monday 1987". These are certainly the best-known cases when shares "fell out of bed". However, they are by nn means the cent, cutting more than £50bn only nr the first two cases. Inevitably, in the future there will be further upsets.

England's first stock market crash was in 1720 when the fallen 32 per cent. South Sea Company went bust. In 1745; a fall in share Jacohite forces of the Young Pretender reached Derby. Now forgotten is the run nn the London hank Pole & Company in 1825, resulting in a financial crisis of such proportions that it was said England was only a day away from a barter economy. Then last year, all the world's stock markets took a tumble when markets in the Far East crashed.

Contrary to legand, the Wall Street Crash of 1929 did not result in stockbrokers throwing themselves from Manhattan's



Historic plunge: Wall Street fell 13.2 per cent on 29 October 1929

skyscrapers. However, Wall to wait weeks for the proceeds, other words, you must have a one can do about it. The Street did fall by 13.2 per cent for brokers could just not cope reasonable level of savings

on 29 October 1929 and the with the administrative burden. before you even think about Ask anyone to name two Great Depression started. An Investors in unit trusts the stock market. stock market crashes and in- even greater fall was experi-, fared no better. Some man- Ideally the equivalent of enced on 19 October 1987, more commonly referred to as Black Monday. Shares fell on Wall Street by 25 per cent. In London, prices fell by 10.6 per from the value of shares. The following day prices fell a further 12 per cent. By 9 November, the London market had chase of units.

Statistics, of course, do not tell us how badly private inprices was triggered when the vestors were hurt. As the crash came at a period when the government was encouraging wider share ownership, many investors who had purchased shares relatively recently did lose large sums. So, too, did speculators in penny shares.

The speed of the crash resulted in everyone being taken by surprise. Phone lines to brokers quickly became jammed and it was virtually impossible to sell shares on the first day and very difficult on the second. Those who were successful in getting through had

agement groups temporarily suspended dealing while others, allegedly, did not answer their telephones. Unit holders who did manage to sell discovered that they did so at the "cancellation price", which is the lowest price allowed by the regulators for the re-pur-

Unlike the 1929 crash, investors did not have to wait a long time to see the market recover. Indeed, 21 months later the Footsie was back to its pre 19 October 1987 position. Although the market ended the year higher than when it began, this was not comforting for many investors.

Anyone who bought shares at the top of the market in July 1987 had to wait five years before the prices of their shares substantially rose above the quired. So, what can we learn from all this?

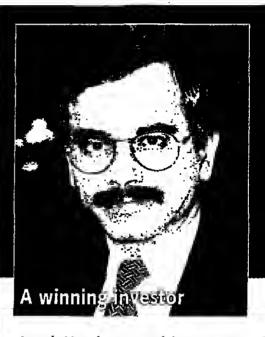
The golden rule is only invest "capital" in shares. In

three months' income should be kept in an instant access savings account. Additional "comfort" funds should be kept in a notice account for emergencies. Certainly, dn not place money you are saving for a future planned expenditure into shares.

Shares are not for everyone. If fluctuations in share prices are likely to cause you sleepless nights, then think about "safe" investments such as interest bearing accounts or "guaranteed" investments that pay a bonus at the end of five years if the stock market does in full if it does not.

■ Remember the stock market must be viewed as a medium to long-term investment - that is for at least five years. If the market plunges, do not

price at which they were ac- panic. Providing all the economic fundamentals are right and you have shares in good companies, all will hopefully come right in the end.



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he Index-Tracking PEP

The price of protection against terrorist damage

extra premium.

Changes by insurers after IRA bombs in the City of London have left tenants liable for terrorist damage. Paul Slade reports

As the Northern Ireland peace talks lorch from optimism to cynicism to despair and back again, nne forgotten element of the process is that of how to insure against the damaging effects of another UK mainland bombing campaign in the event of a breakdown in the talks.

Among those most affected are the new and fashionable breed of inner-city dwellers, drawn to live in converted offices and warehouses. In some

cases, they may even be living in blocks which still contain shops or offices. If so, they could drastically cut the cost of covering their home against the risk of terrorism.

Premiums for this type of cover on commercial premises soared in 1992, when the St Mary Axe bomb in the City of London led European re-insurers to rethink their view on terrorist risk in the UK. When another City explosion caused a further £1bn-plus of damage in 1993, they said they would no longer accept the risk passed on by UK insurance companies for terrorist damage.

UK insurers were forced to create their own reinsurer, Pool Re. instead. Terrorism premiums now go to Pool Re which at the end of 1996, had amassed a fund of about £700m to meet

Until 1992, terrorist damage was included in mainstream commercial property insurance. But, under the new system, nnly £100,000 per property is covered. Pool Re cut its rates by 20 per cent in the riskiest areas at the beginning of this year, reflecting a claim-free year. But getting cover for a building's full value still means paying a hefty

Philip Perry is terrorism underwriter at Hiscox, which runs a number of Linyd's syndicates nperating outside the Pool Re system. He says: "If you take a big commercial property in London worth £100m, and insure it for fire perils, you might pay a premium of £30,000 or £40,000. The terrorism cover will cost you another £115,000. Previously, you, as a client, bad that cover for free, because it was within the £30,000."

Perry's example refers to Pool Re's standard premiums for commercial property in the highest-risk areas of central London. Residential rates in the same areas would mean paying just £8,000. Both figures are before insurance premium tax.

This leaves leaseholders in a vulnerable position. The freeholders who own residential or mixed blocks will typically buy cover for the whole block and pass it on piece by piece to individual tenants.

But they can get cover nt residential rates only if they can demonstrate to Pool Re that 80 per cent or more of the property in question is devoted to residential use. Lower rates should then apply to the resi-dential part of the block, and be passed on to tenants.

Mike Thomsett is managing director of Reality Insurances, whose clients include the huge central London Grosvenor Estates. He says: "I think it is quite reasonable for tenants to approach their landlord and ask them to confirm there is terrorist cover on the huilding, and to make enquiries to see whether it's possible to pay the residential rate rather than the commercial rate - because that can

produce an enormous saving." Some fear the increased cost of huying terrorism insurance separately may lead local councils or private landlords to save money by not buying the cover. When the Docklands bomb exploded in February 1996, two of the residential blocks damaged turned out to be uninsured. One was owned by Tower Hamlets local authority and the other by

a private developer. Leslie Lucas, chief executive

of Pool Re says: "The Town Hamlets building was occupied by tenants but, for some reason or another, the local authorite had decided not to buy the cover. The other building had no tenants and, because there were no tenants, there was no nne to charge the premiums out to. It would have been quite a hefty premium, and they de cided in run the risk themselves

Balancing

The best in the second

"Both those buildings sustained very substantial damage I think the temptation is there to save money, and people have to weigh up the risks."

But what happens if you are a leaseholder living in an uninsured property which is damaged as a result of terrorism? The position will depend partly on the details of your own lease. If the ase contains a covenant stating the landlord will take out insurance, you may be able to insist he reimburse you for any damage from his own pocket.

Equally, however, the lease may contain a clause saying you will take insurance for your own part of the block. If you have not done so, it may be the landlord who is pursuing you.

Homeowners are not affected by the 1992 changes. In their case terrorism cover is still included in their basic bouse

and contents policy. Thomsett is a trenchant critic of the whole system of terrorism insurance here, which he believes is far more tortuous than it need be. He says: "You walk down a street in SW1, and you can't tell from the outside whether it's commercial offices or a residential house. A bomb doesn't identify the residential bits as being less bombable, so the whole thing's a nonsense, really."

WITERE YOU ARE MOST LIKELY TO GET BLOWN UP :

Commercial insurance rates for terrorist damage are higher than. residential ones because these are the properties thought to be the principal targets. But any city centre now will contain a complex raise of commercial and residential properties, putting the idential ones achiskyoo. The danger is highest in central London, followed by outlying districts of London and the central business areas of other major cities. Except for the big cities there, Scotland, Wales, Devon and Cornwall are the safest part of the UK Pool Re divides the country by postcode into four groups. the riskiest of which is zone A Zone A consists entirely of cen-

London is not the only area potentially liable to attack in the event of a resumption of hostilities by the Provisional IRA or any other irish republican organisation. It may be small comfort to them: after suffering several hundred million pounds' worth of damage in 1996, but at least they are placed in a cheaper insurance risk category and would have to pay marginally smaller premiums to

tral London postcodes, which are: E1, E14, EC1, EC2, EC3, EC4, SEL, SWI, WGI, and WCZ.

Of course, as Manchester residents are in a position to testify.

cover themselves against another cerrorist outrage.

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7/PEP SURVEY

Balancing risk and reward

Making tax savings is pointless if you lose money on the underlying investment as a result. Tony Lyons reports

Before deciding which PEP to societies. More risky are bonds, invest in, you should make sure then come equities, with collecthat you understand the risks live investments being less of a involved. No one should buy a risk than going directly into PEP just because of the tax ad- shares. This is because unit or in-

PEPs are suitable for taxpayers who have enough capital, or who can save regular by many factors, including the amounts, which they can place at some degree of risk by in-mately, if there are more buyers vesting in equities - whether directly in shares or indirectly, through a collective fund such

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you must be prepared to invest for at least five years. Accord- of risk attached to any particuing to Jane Drew of Fidelity Investments: "Investors need to protected funds that guarantee understand the relationship between risk and reward in order original capital after five or six to make sensible investment choices." In other words, the tracker funds which simply mirhigher the potential return, the ror the performance of a chosen greater the risks. When it comes to equities and other men investments be prepared to make losses as well as gains. to equities and other high risk FTSE 100 or FTSE All Share.

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After these come more actively managed funds. Balanced are cash and near-cash fixed in-

risks, then come international funds, European and US specialist funds, smaller company funds, until you get to the really high-risk end of the spectrum of

the emerging markets. Even after deciding what stock market index, usually the degree of risk you are prepared to take, it can pay to look at the volatility of a particular fund. This is a statistical device UK investing funds, along with for highlighting the degree of variation in a fund's unit price terest accounts, such as those of- seen as being lower risk than from the average - "the rela-

and it's benchmark index", says Ms Drew. The more volatile a fund, the

more its unit price fluctuates. This is a statistical way of measuring how the price at any time deviates from its average price, usually over a one or three-year period. An historic guide only, a highly volatile unit price does not necessarily imply a bad investment. It just means that, at any given time, its price could vary fered by the banks and building growth funds. On the scale of tionship between the price widely from the sector average. sophisticated investor."

"We generally look at six time periods at least," says Chris Hardy of Reuters Funds, who provide statistical analysis. These measures of volatility are sometimes available in specialist magazines such as Money Management. "However, if you go back too far, it can become irrelevant," warns Mr Hardy. "Over time, many funds change or amend their investment aims. This sort of analysis is only for the professional adviser or very

so are unlikely to see sudden

ramatic turches in valoe. Among unit trusts, the best international funds have been the highly specialised ones that invest in a particular sector of the stock market, most notably Framlington Financial and Save & Prosper's Financial Securities fund, which both invest across the world's banks, life assurers and investment houses.

Also look at performance tables to get a "feel" for a management house's pedigree. The "holy quartet" of Fidelity, Jupiter, Perpetual and Schroder are oftionally invested, including the ten recommended because their Foreign & Colonial trust and funds have provided above-average returns across many sectors.

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OPERAIS PROFESSIONS, APPEARANCE IN STORY SECTION OF AN UNION OF A PROPERTY OF A PROPER framlington

The best guide to future performance

The most lucrative place to put Past success is no guarantee of future returns, but performance your PEP cash five years ago was an investment trust little known to private investors called Scottish National. By the beginning of 1998, a £6,000 five-year PEP investment in the capital shares of Scottish National, managed by Gartmore, was worth a stag-

has been created. Even if shares in the original dramatic appreciation, which was largely the result of the w per combine throughter trust's structure. But that's the the time will impair an danger of looking at past returns.

tables can still yield useful information. Juliet Oxborrow explains

has already passed.

is to be wound up later this year continental European unit European fund, it can only acand shares are oo longer avail- trusts have now come power-. count for a maximum of £1,500 able, although a successor trust fully to the fore, returning on average 22 per cent growth in the year to I March. Top performtrust were still available, it is unlikely they could repeat this have grown by more than a third over the past 12 mooths. Financial advisers believe this growth will continue.

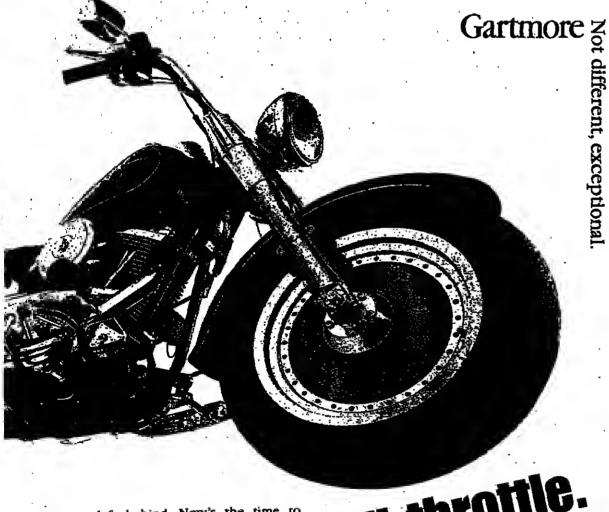
. . It is also worth looking at the to the first in central promising investment prospects: may be due for a change in for-

they tell you of performance that tunes. Japan is tipped for re- ootably Schroder, argue that covery and, even if this again However, past performance proves to be a false dawn, at ripe for a re-rating, having been can point to important trends in least it is curreotly very cheap gering £33,700. Sadly, the trust the stock market. For example, to invest in. However, as a non-

> Rather than looking at investment funds in Isolation, look at them in the context of other funds in the same areas to see how they have performed relative to their peers. Managers who can contain losses in a falling market should have the skills to

smaller company funds are also left out of the stock market rally of the last two years. If you are a carrious investor,

pick a widely spread internaof your general PEP allowance. tional fund which can chop and change between markets to scoop up the best growth. Some of the largest and oldest investment trusts are internathe Witan trust, managed by Henderson. These are highly to see which are the most laggards in the market as they outperform in a rising market. venerated trusts whose shares Juliet Oxborrow is editor of Some investment houses, are constantly in demand and What PEP.



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Moral money making

More and more unit trust PEPs are adhering to ethical codes when they invest. By Tony clean as it might be? Bonsignore Fortunately, many invest-

Many people feel uneasy about the manner in which their investments actually deliver a return. The usual concerns centre on where the money is being invested, such as compa- which adhere to a strict ethical nics that damage the environment, tohacco firms, weapons manufacturers or whether activities of a particular firm for products are tested on animals.

sure that your hard-earned their own investors. cash is being invested with the best of intentions. Complex legal requirements mean that it can often be hard to find out ex-

† Since the Growth &

Protection PEP qualifies as both a single and general

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going. Even if you are able to one year ago. The amount of fund, have a particular focus. find this information it can be money invested in these funds. There is also some variation a difficult and time-consuming company listed lives up to the required standards. And, even that any particular company does not have links with another firm that may not he as

ment companies have reacted to this demand with the launch of a range of ethical unit trust PEPs. This type of fund has become increasingly popular. Ethical funds only invest in firms code. They often spend large sums of money looking into the fear of picking one bad apple It is often too difficult to en- and alienating thousands of

The market in ethical unit trusts is becoming quite large. There are now 24 unit trusts which could be classed as ethical, compared with only 17 just

money invested in these funds has grown massively. By the end process to check that each of last month there was more than £1.5bn invested in ethical unit trusts, compared with then, can an investor be sure under £830m at the same time Most of the ethical funds are

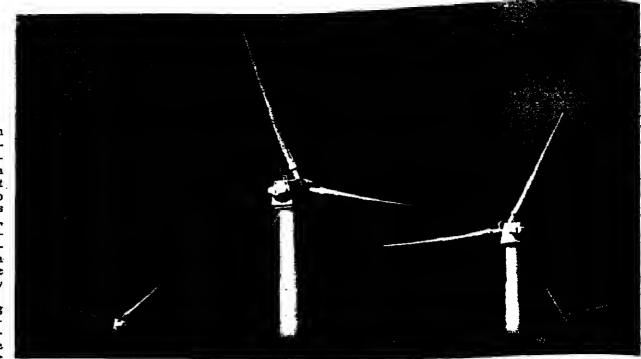
now available to PEP investors. Providers that offer ethical PEPs include such household names as Equitable Life, NPL Scottish Equitable, Standard Life and Friends Provident The latter's Stewardship fund is far and away the market leader, with over £440m under management. The Environ unit trust, run by Co-operative Insurance Services, is the only other unit trust with more than

£100m of investments. The ethical funds currently ailable come in a number of different forms. Some, such as the Stewardship fund, refuse to invest in anything it considers to be unethical while others, such as the Jupiter ecology Share index and just £1,790 for

The Growth & Protection PEP

There is also some variation as to how strict a fund's ethical rules are. If you are thinking about investing in such a unit trust, be sure to ask what its exact ethical criteria are to avoid any unpleasant surprises later on. If you are still unsure, the Ethical Investment Research Service (Eiris), a charitable organisation, provides a detailed guide on each of the different funds called Money and Ethics.

The best news is that being ethical does not involve sacrificing performance. For example, over the five years to the beginning of March 1998, the best performing fund, Framlington Health, (while not strictly an ethical fund) recorded a 152 per cent increase in its value. So an investment of £1,000 in that fund in March 1993 would now be worth more than £2,500. This compares with just over £2,250 for the FTSE All



Generating profits: Seven out of 17 ethical funds have outperformed the average for all unit trusts over five years

the average UK unit trust over the same period. Seven of the 17 ethical unit trusts which have been going for five years or more have outperformed the average for all unit trusts.

So if you are considering investing some money but your

conscience is stopping you, think worrying about what harm you again. There may be a way of investment may be doing. making your money work for you Tony Bonsignore writes for without investing in armaments, Financial Adviser tobacco or environmentally

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How to find an exit

The reasons for disenchantment . in their forms and then sil back. from sloppy and inefficient PEP managers to under-performing investments. In either event, you may decide a move to another PEP manager is necessary.

Changing your PEP manager can be a long-winded and expensive business. But a little patience is usually enough to get the right results. That means resisting the temptation to sell the PEP outright. Since you're rationed to just one PEP a year, selling it means losing that year's PEP together with its tax-free status.

PEP transfers must be handled by the new manager. Fill

with a particular PEP can vary A month is about average to sort out the paperwork.

The big disadvantage of changing PEP managers is the likelihood of being hit by double charges, once from the manager you are leaving and once from . the new one. Exit charges are sometimes fixed, as high as £58.75 on Foreign & Colonial's investment trust PEP Others charge a percentage of the PEP's funds under management, usually around 1 per cent. Some, like Guinness Flight Hambro, have now scrapped exit fees.

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Cut-price offers

In the past, investors who did not want advice on choosing a PEP were frustrated by the fact that managers were uninterested in offering a discount for direct sales.

One way of circumventing this is to use discount brokers which specialise in offering cutdercut the PEP managers. They can do cheaper deals by discounting some or all of the commission paid to them by PEP managers for introducing business. In relurn, the broker receives an annual commission from the PEP manager plus a fee, typically around £20 to £25, from the investor.

So what's the catch? Investors should ensure these offers does not distract them from the central purpose of taking out a PEP, namely longterm, tax-free capital growth.

Leading discount brokers include: Hargreaves Lansdown Services 0171-351 6022; Garrison Investment Analysis 01482 861455; Elson Associates 0500 691790; Unitas 01724 849481; The PEP Shop 0115 9825105; PEP-Direct 0800 413186: Financial Discounts Direct 01420 549090; Premier Fund Managers 01483 306090.

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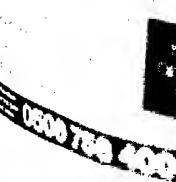


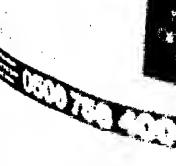


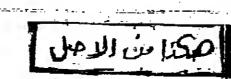


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9/PEP SURVEY

Reasons to climb aboard the last PEP bandwagon

After fear cometh the rejoicing. This week's announcement by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, that all investments in PEPs will retain their tax-free status even after the new Individual Savings Account comes into being in April next year means a fantastic last-mioute opportunity for

Even so, if recent financial surveys are to be believed, the majority of the British public is shares - this way you are not still unsure of the benefits of relying on just one or two PEPs, what the rules governing investment into them are and how to go about finding a good PEP provider. Many of these issues are discussed in more ment trust. With these investdepth in our survey. Here are ments your money is pooled the answers to some key questions about PEPs.

A PEP is basically a tax-free wrapper which can be placed around certain types of investments, such as shares, unit trusts and investment trusts. Any income or gains from PEP investments are tax free, and over the years these tax benefits can be worth hundreds of pounds.

You can invest up to £6,000 a year in a general PEP and you PEP. Competition is such that must invest through a PEP manager. You can noly have one a fund via a PEP than to ingeoeral PEP per year, although it is possible to transfer out of ooe PEP and intn another duriog the same year.

A general PEP can be managed or self-select. With a man-share in the uoderlying assets aged PEP, the PEP manager in the fund. When you want to makes all the investment deci- cash in your investment, you sions for you. With a self-select simply sell the units back to the PEP you decide what invest- fund manager. Unit trust man-

Budget, Abigail Montrose answers some of the key questions for investors wondering if they should claim their allowance

manage them. The vast majority of investors are hetter off spreading their risk and investing in a whole range of companies to do well.

The best way to do this is through a collective investment such as a unit trust or investwith money from hundreds of other investors and used to buy shares in a whole range of companies across many industries. The funds are run by fund. experienced investment managers who can make expert decisions on which companies

Many unit trust and incess to their funds through a ofteo it is cheaper to invest in

vest direct. Unit trust PEPs are the most commoo. Yno buy units in the trust, each of which reflects the actual value of its

ments are in your PEP and you agers charge an initial fee and ment and the investment policy an amnual fee for managing the fund to cover research and dealing costs, plus commission to whoever sold you the

of the trust."

The investment trust indus-

and investment trust share

prices start to rise to more

closely reflect the underlying

value of their assets, investors

vesting in investment trust

shares but are worried you may

trusts rather than investment

"fund of funds". These buy

trusts, usually managed by the

If you are interested in in-

clearly will benefit.

Now Gordon Brown has guaranteed a future for PEPs in the

Investment trusts work in much the same way as unit trusts, except you buy shares rather than units in the fund and these are quited on the Stock Exchange. This means the price of investment trust shares is determined by demand and supply for the shares rather than simply mirroring the value of the underlying assets in the

When an investment trust's shares are quoted at less than the actual value of the underlying assets in the fund, the trust is said to be trading at a disvestmeot trust houses act as count. Where the reverse oc-PEP managers and offer ac- curs, the shares are said to be trading at a premium.

"Currectly, the average investment trust is trading at a discount of 12 per ceot," says Annabel Brodie-Smith, of the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC).

"This means the investor can buy 100p worth of assets for only 88p. However, you must theo look at the other important indicators like past performance, price history, the track record of the managewhich turns out to be a poor

"But while there is no danger of these funds being the worst performers, they will also never be top of the pops either," points out Doo Clark, managing director of Wolverhamptonbased independent financial advisers, Torquil Clark. "These try has begun taking steps to unit trusts give greater diversity narrow discounts. If this works but they also can be a recipe for

mediocrity," he warns. If you like the idea of investing across several fuods but would like to choose the funds yourself, Skandia's Multi-PEP could be the answer. This allows you to invest in a range of unit trusts but they all are

sheltered in the noe PEP. choose a fund that performs You can choose from 76 poorly, many investment houses, including Exeter Fund funds offered by 17 different Managers, Gartmnre, and fund management groups. Henderson now offer the option Minimum investment is £500 of spreading risk by investing in into each fund. But the catch a wider range of their PEPable to watch out for, however, is the charges. As well as paying the For those who like the idea unit trusts' initial and annual of spreading their PEP investfees, you also have to pay ment over a range of funds, but Skandia 0.75 per ceot for manwould prefer to invest in unit aging the PEP.

trusts, it is worth considering a The AITC has produced a free fact sheet on investment trust units in a whole range of unit PEPs, available by calling 0171-431 5222. For a free guide to unit same investment house, so trust PEPs contact the Associadiluting the risk of being tion of Unit Trust and Investment invested in just one unit trust Funds on 0181-207 1361.

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PEP NEWS IN BRIEF

The Government's decision on ISAs (see our frontpage story), removes fears by many fund managers that the cost of transferring their existing PEPs into ISAs could reach hundreds of millions of pounds.

It also paves the way for PEP providers will compete to sell PEPs until the April 1999 deadline. Watch nut for low-cost bargains in the coming months as the market hots up. Bot doo't buy just on price alone: your PEPs, nace bought, will probably remain invested for many years. Research the market and chnose na performance

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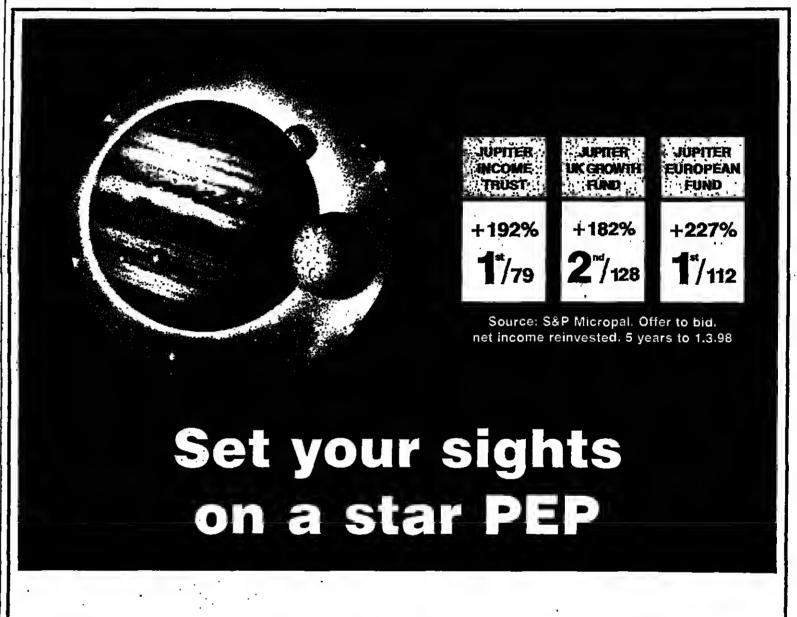
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Geared up for income

Returns on corporate bonds are higher, and risks lower, than equity investments. Simon Read looks at how the youngest member of the PEP family can suit nervous investors

generate a decent income. On top of that, corporate boods are seen as safer invest-

ments than more traditional general PEPs. Corporate bond PEPs represent a lower risk because they invest in fixed-interest bonds and other securities, such as

convertibles and preference shares. But a lower risk doesn't mean no risk. Corporate bonds are fixed-interest boods issued by companies to raise money. The companies pay interest on their bonds and

repay the capital later on a pre-set date. If a company goes bust, however, your loan is unlikely to be repaid. In practice, this is unlikely to happen because only blue-chip companies issue corporate bonds.

PEPs, but what they all have in common is that they are set up to generate income. Convertibles are used by some man-

There is a wide choice of corporate bond

agers. They too offer a fixed rate of inter-

the PEP range, having been introduced in . porate bonds. But they do offer the extra July 1995. They represent an ideal way to potential of enjoying the capital growth associated with equities.

Convertibles have, therefore, often been more heavily promoted as a relatively low-risk entry into the equity market.

Both corporate bonds and convertibles are seldom invested in directly by private individuals. Investors can use the specialist unit trusts on offer from fund managers. It's a game worth playing as yields, the return you get, can be much greater with corporate bonds at 7-8 per cent, compared with 3-4 per cent with equities.

Additionally, corporate bonds are less risky than ordinary shares in that if a company goes bust, corporate bondholders will be paid out before ordinary shareholders.

But the risk of losing out is still possible. There are often two yields quoted oo corporate bond PEPs, the "running yield" and the "gross redemption yield".

The first relates to the current estimatest, but they also offer investors the chance ed level of income you'll get from the fund, to convert their option into shares. For that but this can be misleading because it takes

Corporate bond PEPs are the youngest of reason they offer lower returns than cornotion of capital rising or falling in this type of investment may seem confusing, but that's because while there may be fixed interest on offer, there is no guarantee on capital. Bond prices vary according to the prevailing market conditions and the timing of buying and selling bonds can affect the return.

Gross redemption yield in fact gives a better indication of the return on your investment in a corporate bood PEP as it takes into account gains or losses on capital, as well as income. Comparing the redemptioo yield with the running yield may, in fact, reveal that the gross return of the fund may fall over time, particularly if the running yield is much higher.

How to choose? Obviously, the yield is something to consider but charges should also be taken into account. This is because they have a much greater effect on corporate bond PEPs than geoeral PEPs because your capital is unlikely to be growing. High charges will therefore erode your capital quite quickly whereas in an equity-linked PEP, the growth should offset the charges effect.

Pick and mix portfolios

Self-select personal equity plans Self-select PEPs (PEPs) are for investors prepared to make the final decision about what to invest in via their PEPs. This might be individual shares or a choice of unit or investment trusts. But you must shares to invest in. feel confident about making your own investment decisions.

Equally though, that doesn't mean you have to be an expert. Wrapper. David Gavin Oldham of The Share Centre, one of the many brokers Prosser reports to offer self-select plans, says: "We feel they are suitable for most investors." He reckons that, unless you're a total beginner, a self-select PEP could be useful as long as you are prepared to take at least some advice on your investments.

Not least, this is because selfselect PEPs offer more flexibility than managed funds. If you invest in a PEP from one of the big unit or investment trust providers, it can be difficult to switch out of the fund you choose, especially if you want to and investment trusts. .

allow you to choose which funds and all in a tax-efficient

move to another PEP manager. But a self-select PEP lets you change the investments you. hold whenever you want.

Self-select plans are also often cheaper than managed PEPs. Initial charges are rare, though you may have to pay a set-up fee of, perhaps, £50. Annual charges are levied in different ways but are not likely to add up to more than 1 per. lio, particularly if you hold shares directly rather than through unit

But even if you use your selfselect PEP to hold fuods, it often works out cheaper than inremember there are dealing charges. If you deal often, these fees mount up. Expect to pay between 0.75 and 1.5 per cent of the value of your deal on sales and purchases worth up to £10,000, more if you want advice.

financial adviser Chase de Vere disagrees with Gavin Oldham. "Self-select plans are really only for sophisticated investors," he maintains.

Most self-select PEP providers are stockbrokers who will deal oo your behalf on an execution-only basis, without advice, or with investment advice. Some only offer executiononly services. The Association of Private Client Investment cent of the value of your portfo. Managers and Stockbrokers will supply you with details of all brokers offering self-select

Some brokers also offer corporate PEPs, which are similar to self-select PEPs except that vesting via a managed PEP. Do corporate PEPs are set up by companies to encourage people to buy their shares. As a result, with most corporate PEPs, you are usually restricted to holding shares in just one company. The plan cao be set up as a general PEP, in which case the maxi-Ian Millward of independent mum investment allowed is £6,000, or as a single company

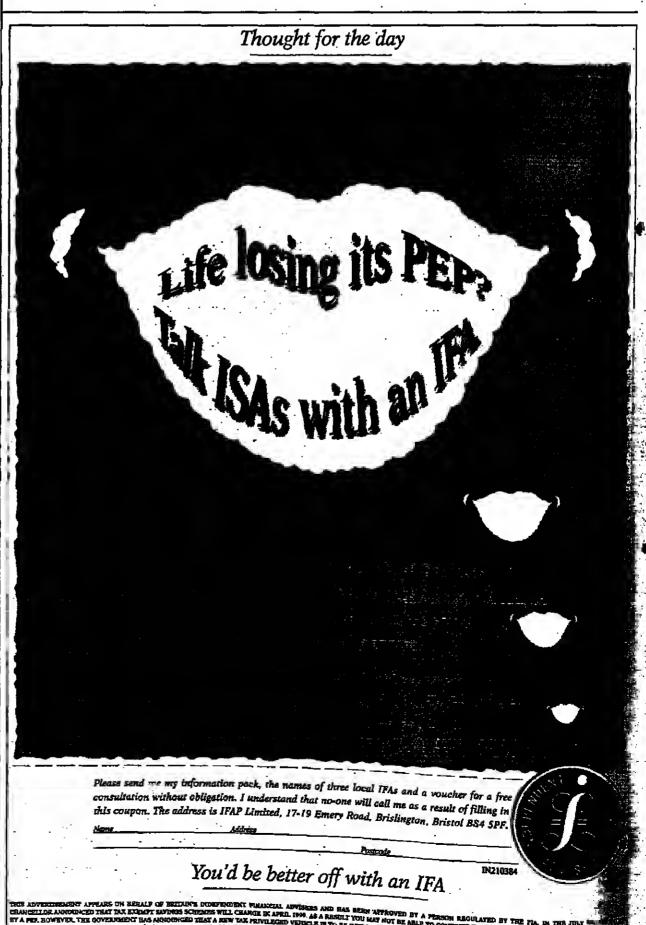
> £3,000 m any ooe tax year. Corporate PEPs are usually good value, and can be a good investment if you believe in the prospects for your company. Oo the other hand, putting a whole PEP allowance into one stock leaves you very exposed.

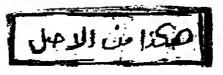
PEP, where you can invest just

David Prosser is features editor of 'Investors Chronicle'.

Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers: 0171-247 7080.

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Off-plan can be perilous

You may escape damp rot, but buying sight unseen still has its pitfalls, writes Penny Jackson.

have warmed to the idea of buying in actions. It is necessary only to recall new developments from plan. Not only scenes at developments such as Comcan they choose exactly what they want but, in a rising market, they can sit back fully orchestrated marketing and watch its value grow while it is be-

It all sounds so simple, far less trou-than worrying about damp rot, set-buyers might even have exchanged ble than worrying about damp rot, settlement and unscrapulous vendors. But contracts on the spot. The frenetic atat least the second-hand market is the devil we know. While we may rail against certain aspects of buying and and we are familiar with the procedures and the role of estate agents, solicitors it's on to normal prices. and surveyors. When it comes to buying off plan, though, the questions that need to be asked are very different.

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The intense marketing of some new developments only serves to further cloud people's minds to the pertinent issues and Linda Beancy of Beancy Pearce, a firm of solicitors, has real concerns about how ill-prepared some buyers are. "They are likely to have spent more time on the small print of their

holiday brochures," she says. age of good property has fuelled the solicitor no its use. He could be in a rush to buy off-plan. In a document for prospective buyers, Beaney Pearce looked at the paperwork," says Linda runs through a list of how to proceed

Crucial is the warning not to be panicked into buying by the crush of peo-

In the past few years, British buyers plc apparently making speedy transty Hall in London to know how a carecampaign can create queues and a panic among potential buyers fearful

> mosphere can also persuade those who arrive at launches with their finances in place to overstretch themand very attractively priced units go,

> "I have seen people spend £20,000 more than they intended to, as though it were £20," says Tom Marshall of Chuttons. In order to speed things along, huyers in larger developments will often find a panel of solicitors on site during the sales days.

> While they are independent and no one is obliged to use them, their selling point is that they are familiar with the documentation.

"If a developer has a large parcel In London, particularly, the short- of land, say, it is important to push the difficult position if he has already Beaney. And the family solicitor may not be the answer either, if he or she is oot familiar with purchasing off-plan. enough to complete a search of the

County Hall in London was the scene of queues and panic among potential flat-buyers selling the property is there to be seen selves. Once the few well advertised recognises that for the panel of solicion a take it or leave it basis, explains verted air terminal in Cromwell Road tors on a development, it is a hierative Mr Foulser. isiness. "But if they have worked with a developer and know something they

> cause they are not starting from scratch." David Foulser, a solicitor with Bretherton Price Elgoods, specialises in new developments and is only too sware of the pitfalls. "The minntea developer suggests using a certain solicitor you might say that is putting more pressure on the buyer."

cannot pass on to a purchaser they must

no conflict of interest. The obvious ad-

that they will be cheaper and faster be-

A further pressure is the deadline set by developers, who will threaten to withdraw the property after that date. Two or three weeks is often oot long At the Law Society, David McNeill wider area and usually the contract is

"What I consider grossly unfair is that despite all the fancy marketing, deposits, is being sold heavily this weekfloor plans, and specifications, when withdraw immediately. There must be the contracts arrive there is a clause the sales office confirms that a buildvantages of using a panel solicitor are legal reliance on anything said to him ahle. Nobody, they say, will be pushed by anyone other than the developer's to use them. So why are they invited solicitor. Plans and sales brochures are in by developers? Edward Lewis of provided for information only. If you FPD Savills says it is easier if the sowant to inspect the plans you might have to drive miles to the head office. Who is going to do that?" he asks.

One of David Foulser's clients recently refused to exchange when the they can work for a more competitive developer's solicitor would not confirm a particular point. "It is madness. Most have been ironed out." people would have caved in because they are desperate not to lose the property. Developers sell property on the terms they dictate."

In London, Point West, the con-

that went through rocky times during end. Some 126 flats are for sale and which says the buyer cannot place any ing society and solicitors will be availlicitors have approved the form of the they are potentially going to be instructed on some 25 per cent of sales fee. "All the potential problems should

> That may well be the case. But it wouldn't do any harm for those buying off-plan to be as rigorous about the standards of their property investment as they are about their holiday hotel.



PENNY JACKSON

Miras was ripe for the picking

If there was general rejoic- What better opportunity lief (Miras) was not to be cut after all, it was a muted affair. If ever there was a plum A flurry of activity has folfor the Treasury to pick this was it, since everybody had prepared themselves for its

The rising value of propels have outstripped the usefulness of the tax relief of 15 per cent on the first £30,000, which falls to 10 per cent in April. Could not the £3bn saved be better spent on those in housing need?

The Council of Mortgage Lenders believes that houslooked at as a whole. Miras tion work. Winkworth, the is of most importance in areas with low property values. according to Sue Anderson for the Council.

head downwards, at 5 per cent, it would mean about £12 to £13 a month to the av- at- either £249,000 or erage household hudget. £249,950.

ing that mortgage interest re- could there be to sweep it away altogether.

lowed the increase in stamp duty from 1.5 to 2 per cent on property above £250,000 and from 2 to 3 per cent on homes over £500,000. If buyerty and higher income levers cao rush things through by Tuesday, they could save

themselves £5,000. Richard Donnell of FPD Savills does not expect it to have a marked effect at the tup of the market. Some huyers may hesitate, hut those oo tight budgets are more likely to hold ing expenditure has to be back on things like renova-London agents, find that of their properties for sale, some 45 per cent are priced in excess of £250,000. The So perhaps it is all a mat-national figure is about 2 ter of timing. If interest rates per cent. They expect to see more properties joining the 11 they already have for sale

You want a quick sale. Two huyers make equivalent offers. Both appear serious and oeither are in a chain. How do you choose? I found myself in this position some years ago and, having a slight preference for one huyer, sought my agent's advice. "Doo't touch him with a hargepole," he barked. "He's self-employed."

I didn't and the sale was swift. Are the self-employed dispossessed? And how can they maximise their purchasing power?

Stephen Smith, manager of the Dulwich hranch of estate agency Bushell's, admits that alarm bells ring when applicants are self-employed: "We have more problems with them getting mortgages than anyone else. As agents it's our duty to make sure they can proceed so we will push them hard- money. They make you laugh." er to see our mortgage specialist."

s less sieen ov long-term self-employed as they general mover, six times in two years, she has rely have several years' proof of earnings but ... sorted to a "aon-status" mortgage for evidence suggest the contrary. Salaried bor- just received a call from Northern Rock re- David. "They are entitled to their opinion more flexibility from borrowers."

Don't give up the day job - if you want a mortgage

The self-employed face discrimination when

buying property reports Ginetta Vedrickas.

the oewly entrepreneurial can irritate: They come in, they've only been self-employed for four mooths and they wonder

Liz Godwin knows the pressures facing rates, freelancers can face accountancy bills ous they are rolling in it." cers more than most 'A comm

a higher deposit and charging higher in- year's earnings.

with favourable rates? The tried but it was claimed that they have only themselves to so much hassle I gave up. It seems much hlame: "They spend years trying to dodge easier just to get my accountant to seed a paying tax so when they try to get a mort- The "unbeatable" deal is for borrowers with why building societies won't lend them the letter basically saying I'm good for the loan."

currently borrows from the Bank of Scot- oess is new. But could the self-employed

borrowers unable to supply adequate proof six months but self-employed applicants are editor and Karen, a supply teacher. "It seems of income or with poor credit ratings. frequently asked for two to three years' ac-extremely unfair," says Richard. "They Lenders protect themselves by asking for counts plus a projection of their next

This can seriously hinder the amount Liz is a successful, established artist and they can borrow, particularly if their husiland. Surely she qualifies for a mortgage do more to help themselves? One agent flat in Loodon. Through their broker they

each purchase. This type of loan caters for rowers must prove their income for the last fixing a mortgage for David, a freelance subare highly experienced, professional people who choose to freelance. They have ex-

cellent credit ratings and a large deposit." David and Karen have rented for almost three years and recently decided to buy a applied for a mortgage from Northern Rock with a rate fixed at 5.99 per cent for 5 years. gage it hits them hard. On paper they're . a minimum deposit of 25 per cent, a re-In addition to unfavourable interest virtually on income support yet it's obvi- quirement that David and Karen fulfil, yet they were refused.

Most lenders deny discrimination but the Patrick Knight, is more sympathetic. He has attitude? "I think it's a hit 1950s," says and strike out on their own, so we need

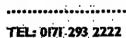
London Property

but had they asked our landlord they would find that we have oever once been late with the rent and we're not likely to default on our mortgage payments."

Northern Rock says it treats self-employed applicants equitably and considers all cases individually. But a spokespersoo cautions: Our criteria is not just to safeguard the lender but the borrower, too. If we refuse a mortgage application we're doing the customer favour. Perhaps they are overstretching themselves and should look again."

Some leaders say they are making cater efforts in what many admit is a market in which they are less than pro-active.

Richard Turnbull believes that slowly relaxing attitudes are oot keeping pace with his changing clientele: "In the current market more people than ever are taking a pos-



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And so to bed

We spend an awfully long time in it, and not just sleeping. Rosalind Russell suggests a stylish way to get some shut-eye.

change. It is estimated that more and surround. than 60 million working days are problems, many of which could be eased by sleeping in a decent bed.

Bed makers claim we should change our beds every 10 years (well they would, wouldn't they). to theirs for more than 17 years.

that's hardly surprising. Buying a new bed is a major outlay. A Spencer costs almost £700, not including a headboard.

bed isn't the most expensive on et spring system developed and made by Leeds firm Spink and Edgar promises a good night's sags and everybody's exhausted. sleep to the oddest-sized couple...

For some people, it will be a re- at a cost. A 5ft base and mattress narrowest and shortest in the lief getting up an hour earlier next starts at £1,750 and goes up to world, falling way behind Belweekend, when the clocks £9,000, plus the cost of bed head

> on top, but firm when the springs work together. It suits all shapes

"We spend a third of our lives in bed," says Jessica Alexander. but the average couple bang on consultant to the Sleep Council, "so it's important we know how Given the cost of replacing it, to make the most of this with quality sleep."

Given we are in hed for up to straightforward, no-frills 5ft divan a third of each day, that adds up and mattress from Marks and to 29,200 hours' lying time during a 10-year bed lifespan. The Sleep Council claim 34 per cent Even the Lord Chancellor's of 15 to 40-year-olds eat in bed, much publicised £8,000 Gothic 59 per cent drink in bed and more than a third of the population use the market. A new double pock- their beds as a family meeting point at the start of festivities like Christmas. No wonder the bed

British beds are among the

gium, Finland and Switzerland in the slumber stakes. America, The beauty of it, says Peter needless to say, has the largest lost each year hecause of back Spink, is that it always feels soft standard size in the world and their California kingsize is a McMighty 72" by 84".

But James Adam, makers of beds in Woodbridge, Suffolk, will order if required. The company specialises in French and American styles, supplying tailor-made beds. Four-posters are popular with clients, who can huy the mattress and base from the firm, too. The James Adam Directoire Daybed is a copy from an original, taking the style of the French Directoire government in the late 1700s. It's hand-carved with some of the Revolutionary symbols. The solid rosewood bedframe

costs from £1,838. A Louis XV upholstered bed costs from £1,638. Simon Horn Furniture, in



classical wooden reproduction Sweet dreams: have a Rococo bed made to order, from £3,482

bring the French Lit Bateau bed to the UK. His latest design is the Rococo bed, hand carved from rosewood and a copy of an antique dated 1890. It can be made in any size to order, and prices cellor would like a copy. start at £3,482 for a double.

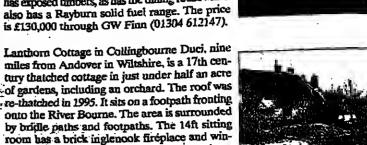
for cleaning and can be covered

happily make a 7ft square bed to London, was one of the first to Medin. The company has also just produced a mail order brochure to include accessories, including linen, lighting, nightware, alarm clocks and "funky" hot water bottles. Perhaps the Lord Chan-

> The Iron Bed Company have 'For 'Bed Buyers Guide' or 'Sleep just launched two new designs, Good Feel Good Guide', send Linden and Merlin, the first to be SAE to The Sleep Council, High made with padded headboards. Com Mill, Chapel Hill, Skipton, N. The headboards are removable Yorks, BD23 1NL; James Adam 01394 384471; Spink & Edgar with a fabric from the company's 01132 771255; Simon Horn Furrange or you can supply your own. niture 0171-7311279; The Iron Prices begin at £449 for a 3ft Bed Company 01243 778999.

THREE TO VIEW: UNDER £130,000

The Haven, on the edge of the village of Finglesham in Kent, has views across Sandwich and Pegwell Bay, where the Sally Line ferries sail to Dunkirk. The three-bedroom country cottage has been renovated and modernised with night storage heaters, new windows, doors and rook but still needs cosmetic work. The sitting room has exposed timbers, as has the dining room which also has a Rayburn solid fuel range. The price is £130,000 through GW Finn (01304 612147).



This Tunbridge Wells studio, with 28ft vaulted living space, was built in the late 1980s onto the adjoining period house. As the south side is almost completely glazed, a designer or photographer would appreciate the light. Within walking distance of shops and station, it has a 28ft living room/studio with Amtico tiled floor and fitted wall curboards and doors to the garden. A spiral staircase leads to the 19ft mezzanine level and bedroom. There is a 100ft garden and parking space for two cars. £125,000 through Brooks Peacock (01892 531199).

dow seat, there's a kitchen dining room and two

tons (01672 516256).



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us, two luxury baths,



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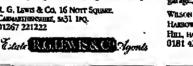
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